

PROMOTER VARIANTS FOR EXPRESSING GENES IN A FUNGAL CELL

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Cross-Reference to Related Application

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/427314, filed November 18, 2002, which application is incorporated herein by reference.

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Background of the Invention

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to methods for producing biological substances. The present invention also relates to isolated promoter variants and to nucleic acid constructs, vectors, and host cells comprising the promoter variants operably linked to nucleic acid sequences encoding biological substances.

Description of the Related Art

The recombinant production of a native or heterologous biological substance in a fungal host cell, particularly a filamentous fungal cell such as *Aspergillus*, may provide for a more desirable vehicle for producing the substance in commercially relevant quantities.

Recombinant production of a native or heterologous biological substance is accomplished by constructing an expression cassette in which the DNA coding for the protein is placed under the expression control of a promoter, excised from a regulated gene, suitable for the host cell. The expression cassette is introduced into the host cell, usually by plasmid-mediated transformation. Production of the substance is then achieved by culturing the transformed host cell under inducing conditions necessary for the proper functioning of the promoter contained on the expression cassette.

The development of a new fungal host cell for the recombinant production of biological substances generally requires the availability of promoters that are suitable for controlling the expression of the substances in the host cell. *Fusarium venenatum* has been shown to be useful as a new host cell for such expression (WO 96/00787, WO 97/26330). Moreover, the promoter from the *Fusarium oxysporum* trypsin-like protease gene has been described which is useful for expressing heterologous genes in *Fusarium venenatum* host cells (US 5,837,847).

U.S. Patent No. 6,361,973 discloses a glucoamylase promoter from *Fusarium venenatum*. However, there is a need in the art for new promoters for controlling the expression of native and heterologous genes.

It is an object of the present invention to provide improved methods for producing a biological substance in a fungal host cell and new promoter variants for such production.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention relates to methods for producing a biological substance, comprising: (a) cultivating a fungal host cell in a medium conducive for the production of the biological substance, wherein the fungal host cell comprises a first nucleic acid sequence encoding the biological substance operably linked to a second nucleic acid sequence comprising a promoter variant having a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 11, and SEQ ID NO: 12; and subsequences thereof; and hybrid and tandem promoters thereof; and (b) isolating the biological substance from the cultivation medium. The biological substance may be native or heterologous to the fungal host cell.

The present invention also relates to isolated promoter variants comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 11, and SEQ ID NO: 12; and subsequences thereof; and hybrid and tandem promoters thereof; and to constructs, vectors, and fungal host cells comprising one or more of the promoter variants operably linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding a biological substance.

Brief Description of the Figures

Figures 1A and B show the DNA sequence of the *Fusarium venenatum* native glucoamylase gene promoter sequence.

Figure 2 shows a restriction map of pDM237.

Figure 3 shows a restriction map of pJRoy72.

Figure 4 shows a restriction map of pNham1.

Figure 5 shows a restriction map of pNham2.

Figure 6 shows a restriction map of pDM156.2.

Figure 7 shows a restriction map of pDM222A.

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Detailed Description of the Invention

The present invention relates to methods for producing a biological substance, comprising (a) cultivating a fungal host cell in a medium conducive for the production of the biological substance, wherein the fungal host cell comprises a first nucleic acid sequence encoding the biological substance operably linked to a second nucleic acid sequence comprising a promoter variant selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 11, and SEQ ID NO: 12; and subsequences thereof; and hybrid and tandem promoters thereof; and (b) isolating the biological substance from the cultivation medium.

In the production methods of the present invention, the cells are cultivated in a nutrient medium suitable for production of the biological substance using methods known in the art. For example, the cell may be cultivated by shake flask cultivation, small-scale or large-scale fermentation (including continuous, batch, fed-batch, or solid state fermentations) in laboratory or industrial fermentors performed in a suitable medium and under conditions allowing the biological substance to be expressed and/or isolated. The cultivation takes place in a suitable nutrient medium comprising carbon and nitrogen sources and inorganic salts, using procedures known in the art. Suitable media are available from commercial suppliers or may be prepared according to published compositions (e.g., in catalogues of the American Type Culture Collection). If the biological substance is secreted into the nutrient medium, the substance can be recovered directly from the medium. If the biological substance is not secreted, it can be recovered from cell lysates.

The biological substances may be detected using methods known in the art that are specific for the biological substances. These detection methods may include use of specific antibodies, high performance liquid chromatography, capillary chromatography, formation of an enzyme product, disappearance of an enzyme substrate, or SDS-PAGE. For example, an enzyme assay may be used to determine the activity of the enzyme. Procedures for determining enzyme activity are known in the art for many enzymes (see, for example, D.

Schomburg and M. Salzmann (eds.), *Enzyme Handbook*, Springer-Verlag, New York, 1990).

The resulting biological substance may be isolated by methods known in the art. For example, a polypeptide of interest may be isolated from the cultivation medium by conventional procedures including, but not limited to, centrifugation, filtration, extraction, spray-drying, evaporation, or precipitation. The isolated polypeptide may then be further purified by a variety of procedures known in the art including, but not limited to, chromatography (e.g., ion exchange, affinity, hydrophobic, chromatofocusing, and size exclusion), electrophoretic procedures (e.g., preparative isoelectric focusing (IEF), differential solubility (e.g., ammonium sulfate precipitation), or extraction (see, e.g., *Protein Purification*, J.-C. Janson and Lars Ryden, editors, VCH Publishers, New York, 1989). A metabolite of interest may be isolated from a cultivation medium by, for example, extraction, precipitation, or differential solubility, or any method known in the art. The isolated metabolite may then be further purified using methods suitable for metabolites.

Promoters

The term "promoter" is defined herein as a DNA sequence that binds RNA polymerase and directs the polymerase to the correct downstream transcriptional start site of a nucleic acid sequence encoding a biological substance to initiate transcription. RNA polymerase effectively catalyzes the assembly of messenger RNA complementary to the appropriate DNA strand of the coding region. The term "promoter" will also be understood to include the 5' non-coding region (between promoter and translation start) for translation after transcription into mRNA, *cis*-acting transcription control elements such as enhancers, and other nucleotide sequences capable of interacting with transcription factors.

The term "promoter variant" is defined herein as a promoter having a nucleotide sequence comprising a substitution, deletion, and/or insertion of one or more nucleotides of a parent promoter, wherein the mutant promoter has more or less promoter activity than the corresponding parent promoter. The term "promoter variant" will also encompass natural variants and *in vitro* generated variants obtained using methods well known in the art such as classical mutagenesis, site-directed mutagenesis, and DNA shuffling.

The term "hybrid promoter" is defined herein as parts of two more promoters that are fused together to generate a sequence that is a fusion of the two or more promoters, which when operably linked to a coding sequence mediates the transcription of the coding sequence into mRNA.

The term "tandem promoter" is defined herein as two or more promoter sequences each of which is operably linked to a coding sequence and mediates the transcription of the coding sequence into mRNA.

5 The term "operably linked" is defined herein as a configuration in which a control sequence, e.g., a promoter sequence, is appropriately placed at a position relative to a coding sequence such that the control sequence directs the production of a biological substance encoded by the coding sequence.

10 The term "coding sequence" is defined herein as a nucleic acid sequence that is transcribed into mRNA which is translated into a biological substance, e.g., polypeptide, when placed under the control of the appropriate control sequences. The boundaries of the coding sequence are generally determined by the ATG start codon located just upstream of the open reading frame at the 5' end of the mRNA and a transcription terminator sequence located just downstream of the open reading frame at the 3' end of the mRNA. A coding sequence can include, but is not limited to, genomic DNA, cDNA, semisynthetic, synthetic, and recombinant
15 nucleic acid sequences.

A promoter variant of the present invention may have one or more mutations. Each mutation is an independent substitution, deletion, and/or insertion of a nucleotide. The introduction of a substitution, deletion, and/or insertion of a nucleotide into the promoter may be accomplished using any of the methods known in the art such as classical mutagenesis, site-
20 directed mutagenesis, or DNA shuffling. Particularly useful is a procedure which utilizes a supercoiled, double stranded DNA vector with an insert of interest and two synthetic primers containing the desired mutation. The oligonucleotide primers, each complementary to opposite strands of the vector, extend during temperature cycling by means of *Pfu* DNA polymerase. On incorporation of the primers, a mutated plasmid containing staggered nicks is generated.
25 Following temperature cycling, the product is treated with *DpnI* which is specific for methylated and hemimethylated DNA to digest the parental DNA template and to select for mutation-containing synthesized DNA. Other procedures known in the art may also be used.

30 The parent promoter of the promoter variants of the present invention is SEQ ID NO: 1 shown in Figures 1A and 1B, or the nucleic acid sequence contained in plasmid pECO3 which is contained in *Escherichia coli* NRRL B-30067.

The regions chosen for deletion, insertion or substitution of SEQ ID NO: 1 were based on observations made about the nucleotide sequence of the *Fusarium venenatum* glucoamylase promoter. At positions, 3792 to 3807, 3678 to 3693, and 3814 to 3824 of SEQ ID

NO: 1 (U.S. Patent No. 6,361,973), there are regions that share homology to motifs found in other starch inducible fungal promoters. The regions were similar in sequence to the IIIa and IIIb regions described previously in *Aspergillus* amylase promoters (Minetoki *et al.*, 1996, *Current Genetics* 30: 432-438). Region IIIa was found in the *Aspergillus oryzae* alpha-glucosidase, amylase B and glucoamylase promoters as well as in *Aspergillus niger* alpha-glucosidase promoter. Region IIIb was found only in the *Aspergillus niger* and *Aspergillus oryzae* alpha-glucosidase promoters. The 3792 to 3807 and 3678 to 3693 regions of the *Fusarium venenatum* glucoamylase promoter have some sequence similarity to the Region IIIa consensus while the 3814 to 3824 has homology to the IIIb sequence. The analysis of the *Aspergillus* promoters by Minetoki *et al.* suggested that IIIa region was required for high level expression in the presence of starch or maltose while IIIb region was required for high level expression but does not play a role in starch induction. Minetoki *et al.* further demonstrated that a significant increase in promoter activity could be observed by introducing multiple copies of region IIIa into the *Aspergillus oryzae* alpha-glucosidase promoter. In the present invention, variants of the *Fusarium venenatum* glucoamylase promoter were constructed which demonstrated that the putative IIIa and IVb regions were important for expression. In addition, adding IIIa region 35 bp downstream of the 3792 to 3807 region improved the promoter. However, the IIIa consensus found in *Aspergillus* promoters (Minetoki *et al.*, 1996, *supra*) was not as efficient as the native *Fusarium venenatum* IIIa promoter sequence.

In a preferred embodiment, the promoter variant has the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, or a subsequence thereof. The subsequence preferably contains at least about 1200 nucleotides, more preferably at least about 1500 nucleotides, and most preferably at least about 1800 nucleotides.

In another preferred embodiment, the promoter variant has the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3, or a subsequence thereof. The subsequence preferably contains at least about 1200 nucleotides, more preferably at least about 1500 nucleotides, and most preferably at least about 1800 nucleotides.

In another preferred embodiment, the promoter variant has the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, or a subsequence thereof. The subsequence preferably contains at least about 1200 nucleotides, more preferably at least about 1500 nucleotides, and most preferably at least about 1800 nucleotides.

In another preferred embodiment, the promoter variant has the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, or a subsequence thereof. The subsequence preferably contains at least about

1200 nucleotides, more preferably at least about 1500 nucleotides, and most preferably at least about 1800 nucleotides.

In another preferred embodiment, the promoter variant comprises at least two copies, more preferably at least three copies, and most preferably at least four copies of the sequence
5 CGGCGTAATTTCCGCC in the *Fusarium venenatum* glucoamylase promoter.

In another preferred embodiment, the promoter variant has the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6, or a subsequence thereof. The subsequence preferably contains at least about 1200 nucleotides, more preferably at least about 1500 nucleotides, and most preferably at least about 1800 nucleotides.

10 In another preferred embodiment, the promoter variant has the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7, or a subsequence thereof. The subsequence preferably contains at least about 1200 nucleotides, more preferably at least about 1500 nucleotides, and most preferably at least about 1800 nucleotides.

In another preferred embodiment, the promoter variant has the nucleic acid sequence of
15 SEQ ID NO: 8, or a subsequence thereof. The subsequence preferably contains at least about 1200 nucleotides, more preferably at least about 1500 nucleotides, and most preferably at least about 1800 nucleotides.

In another preferred embodiment, the promoter variant has the nucleic acid sequence of
20 SEQ ID NO: 9, or a subsequence thereof. The subsequence preferably contains at least about 1200 nucleotides, more preferably at least about 1500 nucleotides, and most preferably at least about 1800 nucleotides.

In another preferred embodiment, the promoter variant has the nucleic acid sequence of
25 SEQ ID NO: 10, or a subsequence thereof. The subsequence preferably contains at least about 1200 nucleotides, more preferably at least about 1500 nucleotides, and most preferably at least about 1800 nucleotides.

In another preferred embodiment, the promoter variant has the nucleic acid sequence of
SEQ ID NO: 11, or a subsequence thereof. The subsequence preferably contains at least about 1200 nucleotides, more preferably at least about 1500 nucleotides, and most preferably at least about 1800 nucleotides.

30 In another preferred embodiment, the promoter variant has the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12, or a subsequence thereof. The subsequence preferably contains at least about 1200 nucleotides, more preferably at least about 1500 nucleotides, and most preferably at least about 1800 nucleotides.

In a preferred embodiment of the methods of the present invention, the promoter variant, which increases expression of the nucleic acid sequence encoding a biological substance, is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5; and subsequences thereof.

5 In another preferred embodiment of the methods of the present invention, the promoter variant, which decreases expression of the nucleic acid sequence encoding a biological substance, is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8; SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 11, and SEQ ID NO: 12; and subsequences thereof.

10 In the methods of the present invention, the promoter variant may also be a hybrid promoter comprising a portion of one or more promoters of the present invention; a portion of a promoter of the present invention and a portion of another promoter, e.g., a leader sequence of one promoter and the transcription start site from the other promoter; or a portion of one or more promoters of the present invention and a portion of one or more other promoters. The other promoter may be any promoter sequence which shows transcriptional activity in the
15 fungal host cell of choice including a mutant, truncated, and hybrid promoter; and may be obtained from genes encoding extracellular or intracellular polypeptides either homologous or heterologous to the host cell. The other promoter sequence may be native or foreign to the nucleic acid sequence encoding the biological substance and native or foreign to the cell.

20 Examples of other promoters useful in the construction of hybrid promoters with the promoter variants of the present invention include the promoters obtained from the genes for *Aspergillus oryzae* TAKA amylase, *Rhizomucor miehei* aspartic proteinase, *Aspergillus niger* neutral alpha-amylase, *Aspergillus niger* acid stable alpha-amylase, *Aspergillus niger* or *Aspergillus awamori* glucoamylase (*glaA*), *Rhizomucor miehei* lipase, *Aspergillus oryzae*
25 alkaline protease, *Aspergillus oryzae* triose phosphate isomerase, *Aspergillus nidulans* acetamidase, *Fusarium venenatum* amyloglucosidase, *Fusarium oxysporum* trypsin-like protease (WO 96/00787), *Trichoderma reesei* cellobiohydrolase I, *Trichoderma reesei* cellobiohydrolase II, *Trichoderma reesei* endoglucanase I, *Trichoderma reesei* endoglucanase II, *Trichoderma reesei* endoglucanase III, *Trichoderma reesei* endoglucanase IV, *Trichoderma reesei* endoglucanase V, *Trichoderma reesei* xylanase I, *Trichoderma reesei* xylanase II, *Trichoderma reesei* beta-xylosidase, as well as the NA2-tpi promoter (a hybrid of the promoters from the genes for *Aspergillus niger* neutral alpha-amylase and *Aspergillus oryzae* triose phosphate isomerase), *Fusarium venenatum* Daria promote, *Fusarium venenatum* Quinn
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promoter, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* enolase (ENO-1), *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* galactokinase (GAL1), *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* alcohol dehydrogenase/glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (ADH2/GAP), and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* 3-phosphoglycerate kinase; and mutant, truncated, and hybrid promoters thereof. Other useful promoters for yeast host cells are described by Romanos *et al.*, 1992, *Yeast* 8: 423-488.

The promoter variant may also be a tandem promoter comprising two more promoter variants of the present invention or alternatively one or more promoter variants of the present invention and one or more other promoters, such as those exemplified above. The two or more promoter sequences of the tandem promoter may simultaneously promote the transcription of the nucleic acid sequence. Alternatively, one or more of the promoter sequences of the tandem promoter may promote the transcription of the nucleic acid sequence at different stages of growth of the cell.

In the methods of the present invention, a hybrid or tandem promoter of the present invention will be understood to be foreign to a nucleic acid sequence encoding a biological substance even if the wild-type promoter is native to the nucleic acid sequence. For example, in a tandem promoter consisting of at least two promoters, one of the promoters may be a the wild-type promoter of the nucleic acid sequence encoding a biological substance.

A promoter variant of the present invention has at least about 20%, preferably at least about 40%, more preferably at least about 60%, more preferably at least about 80%, more preferably at least about 90%, more preferably at least about 100%, even more preferably at least about 200%, most preferably at least about 300%, and even most preferably at least about 400% of the promoter activity of the promoter of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Biological Substance Encoding Nucleic Acid Sequences

The biological substance encoded by the first nucleic acid sequence may be native or heterologous to the fungal host cell of interest. The biological substance may be any biopolymer or metabolite. The biological substance may be encoded by a single gene or a series of genes composing a biosynthetic or metabolic pathway or may be the direct result of the product of a single gene or products of a series of genes. Thus, the term "first nucleic acid sequence encoding a biological substance" will be understood to encompass one or more genes involved in the production of the biological substance. The term "heterologous biological substance" is defined herein as a biological substance which is not native to the host cell; or a native biological substance in which structural modifications have been made to alter the native

biological substance.

In the methods of the present invention, the biopolymer may be any biopolymer. The term "biopolymer" is defined herein as a chain (or polymer) of identical, similar, or dissimilar subunits (monomers). The biopolymer may be, but is not limited to, a nucleic acid, polyamine, polyol, polypeptide (or polyamide), or polysaccharide.

In a preferred embodiment, the biopolymer is a polypeptide. The polypeptide may be any polypeptide having a biological activity of interest. The term "polypeptide" is not meant herein to refer to a specific length of the encoded product and, therefore, encompasses peptides, oligopeptides, and proteins. The term "polypeptide" also encompasses two or more polypeptides combined to form the encoded product. Polypeptides also include hybrid polypeptides, which comprise a combination of partial or complete polypeptide sequences obtained from at least two different polypeptides wherein one or more may be heterologous to the fungal cell. Polypeptides further include naturally occurring allelic and engineered variations of the above-mentioned polypeptides and hybrid polypeptides.

In a preferred embodiment, the polypeptide is an antibody, antigen, antimicrobial peptide, enzyme, growth factor, hormone, immunodilator, neurotransmitter, receptor, reporter protein, structural protein, and transcription factor.

In a more preferred embodiment, the polypeptide is an oxidoreductase, transferase, hydrolase, lyase, isomerase, or ligase. In a most preferred embodiment, the polypeptide is an alpha-glucosidase, aminopeptidase, amylase, carbohydrase, carboxypeptidase, catalase, cellulase, chitinase, cutinase, cyclodextrin glycosyltransferase, deoxyribonuclease, esterase, alpha-galactosidase, beta-galactosidase, glucoamylase, glucocerebrosidase, alpha-glucosidase, beta-glucosidase, invertase, laccase, lipase, mannosidase, mutanase, oxidase, pectinolytic enzyme, peroxidase, phospholipase, phytase, polyphenoloxidase, proteolytic enzyme, ribonuclease, transglutaminase, urokinase, or xylanase.

In another preferred embodiment, the polypeptide is a collagen or gelatin.

In another preferred embodiment, the biopolymer is a polysaccharide. The polysaccharide may be any polysaccharide, including, but not limited to, a mucopolysaccharide (e.g., heparin and hyaluronic acid) and nitrogen-containing polysaccharide (e.g., chitin). In a more preferred embodiment, the polysaccharide is hyaluronic acid.

In the methods of the present invention, the metabolite may be any metabolite. The metabolite may be encoded by one or more genes, such as a biosynthetic or metabolic pathway. The term "metabolite" encompasses both primary and secondary metabolites.

Primary metabolites are products of primary or general metabolism of a cell, which are concerned with energy metabolism, growth, and structure. Secondary metabolites are products of secondary metabolism (see, for example, R.B. Herbert, *The Biosynthesis of Secondary Metabolites*, Chapman and Hall, New York, 1981).

5 The primary metabolite may be, but is not limited to, an amino acid, fatty acid, nucleoside, nucleotide, sugar, triglyceride, or vitamin.

 The secondary metabolite may be, but is not limited to, an alkaloid, coumarin, flavonoid, polyketide, quinine, steroid, peptide, or terpene. In a preferred embodiment, the secondary metabolite is an antibiotic, antifeedant, attractant, bactericide, fungicide, hormone, insecticide,
10 or rodenticide.

 The nucleic acid sequence encoding a biological substance of interest may be obtained from any prokaryotic, eukaryotic, or other source. For purposes of the present invention, the term "obtained from" as used herein in connection with a given source shall mean that the biological substance is produced by the source or by a cell in which a gene from the source has
15 been inserted.

 The techniques used to isolate or clone a nucleic acid sequence encoding a biological substance of interest are known in the art and include isolation from genomic DNA, preparation from cDNA, or a combination thereof. The cloning of the nucleic acid sequence from such genomic DNA can be effected, e.g., by using the well known polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

20 See, for example, Innis *et al.*, 1990, *PCR Protocols: A Guide to Methods and Application*, Academic Press, New York. The cloning procedures may involve excision and isolation of a desired nucleic acid fragment comprising the nucleic acid sequence encoding the biological substance, insertion of the fragment into a vector molecule, and incorporation of the recombinant vector into the mutant fungal cell where multiple copies or clones of the nucleic
25 acid sequence will be replicated. The nucleic acid sequence may be of genomic, cDNA, RNA, semisynthetic, synthetic origin, or any combinations thereof.

Nucleic Acid Constructs

30 The present invention also relates to nucleic acid constructs comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a biological substance operably linked to at least one promoter variant of the present invention and one or more control sequences which direct the expression of the coding sequence in a suitable host cell under conditions compatible with the control sequences. Expression will be understood to include any step involved in the production of the biological

substance including, but not limited to, transcription, post-transcriptional modification, translation, post-translational modification, and secretion.

"Nucleic acid construct" is defined herein as a nucleic acid molecule, either single- or double-stranded, which is isolated from a naturally occurring gene or which has been modified to contain segments of nucleic acid combined and juxtaposed in a manner that would not otherwise exist in nature. The term nucleic acid construct is synonymous with the term expression cassette when the nucleic acid construct contains a coding sequence and all the control sequences required for expression of the coding sequence.

An isolated nucleic acid sequence encoding a biological substance may be further manipulated in a variety of ways to provide for expression of the biological substance. Manipulation of the nucleic acid sequence prior to its insertion into a vector may be desirable or necessary depending on the expression vector. The techniques for modifying nucleic acid sequences utilizing recombinant DNA methods are well known in the art.

In the methods of the present invention, the nucleic acid sequence may comprise one or more native control sequences or one or more of the native control sequences may be replaced with one or more control sequences foreign to the nucleic acid sequence for improving expression of the coding sequence in a host cell.

The term "control sequences" is defined herein to include all components which are necessary or advantageous for the expression of a biological substance of the present invention. Each control sequence may be native or foreign to the nucleic acid sequence encoding the biological substance. Such control sequences include, but are not limited to, a leader, polyadenylation sequence, propeptide sequence, promoter variant of the present invention, signal peptide sequence, and transcription terminator. At a minimum, the control sequences include a promoter variant of the present invention, and transcriptional and translational stop signals. The control sequences may be provided with linkers for the purpose of introducing specific restriction sites facilitating ligation of the control sequences with the coding region of the nucleic acid sequence encoding a biological substance.

The control sequence may be a suitable transcription terminator sequence, a sequence recognized by a host cell to terminate transcription. The terminator sequence is operably linked to the 3' terminus of the nucleic acid sequence encoding the biological substance. Any terminator which is functional in the fungal host cell of choice may be used in the present invention.

Preferred terminators for filamentous fungal host cells are obtained from the genes for

Aspergillus oryzae TAKA amylase, *Aspergillus niger* glucoamylase, *Aspergillus nidulans* anthranilate synthase, *Aspergillus niger* alpha-glucosidase, and *Fusarium oxysporum* trypsin-like protease.

Preferred terminators for yeast host cells are obtained from the genes for *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* enolase, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* cytochrome C (CYC1), and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase. Other useful terminators for yeast host cells are described by Romanos *et al.*, 1992, *supra*.

The control sequence may also be a suitable leader sequence, a nontranslated region of an mRNA which is important for translation by the host cell. The leader sequence is operably linked to the 5' terminus of the nucleic acid sequence encoding the biological substance. Any leader sequence that is functional in the host cell of choice may be used in the present invention.

Preferred leaders for filamentous fungal host cells are obtained from the genes for *Aspergillus oryzae* TAKA amylase, *Aspergillus nidulans* triose phosphate isomerase, *Fusarium venenatum* trypsin, and *Fusarium venenatum* glucoamylase.

Suitable leaders for yeast host cells are obtained from the genes for *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* enolase (ENO-1), *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* 3-phosphoglycerate kinase, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* alpha-factor, and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* alcohol dehydrogenase/glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (ADH2/GAP).

The control sequence may also be a polyadenylation sequence, a sequence operably linked to the 3' terminus of the nucleic acid sequence and which, when transcribed, is recognized by the host cell as a signal to add polyadenosine residues to transcribed mRNA. Any polyadenylation sequence which is functional in the fungal host cell of choice may be used in the present invention.

Preferred polyadenylation sequences for filamentous fungal host cells are obtained from the genes for *Aspergillus oryzae* TAKA amylase, *Aspergillus niger* glucoamylase, *Aspergillus nidulans* anthranilate synthase, *Fusarium oxysporum* trypsin-like protease, and *Aspergillus niger* alpha-glucosidase.

Useful polyadenylation sequences for yeast host cells are described by Guo and Sherman, 1995, *Molecular Cellular Biology* 15: 5983-5990.

The control sequence may also be a signal peptide coding region that codes for an amino acid sequence linked to the amino terminus of a polypeptide and directs the encoded polypeptide into the cell's secretory pathway. The 5' end of the coding sequence of the nucleic

acid sequence may inherently contain a signal peptide coding region naturally linked in translation reading frame with the segment of the coding region which encodes the secreted polypeptide. Alternatively, the 5' end of the coding sequence may contain a signal peptide coding region which is foreign to the coding sequence. The foreign signal peptide coding region may be required where the coding sequence does not naturally contain a signal peptide coding region. Alternatively, the foreign signal peptide coding region may simply replace the natural signal peptide coding region in order to enhance secretion of the polypeptide. However, any signal peptide coding region which directs the expressed polypeptide into the secretory pathway of a fungal host cell of choice may be used in the present invention.

Effective signal peptide coding regions for filamentous fungal host cells are the signal peptide coding regions obtained from the genes for *Aspergillus oryzae* TAKA amylase, *Aspergillus niger* neutral amylase, *Aspergillus niger* glucoamylase, *Rhizomucor miehei* aspartic proteinase, *Humicola insolens* cellulase, and *Humicola lanuginosa* lipase.

Useful signal peptides for yeast host cells are obtained from the genes for *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* alpha-factor and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* invertase. Other useful signal peptide coding regions are described by Romanos *et al.*, 1992, *supra*.

The control sequence may also be a propeptide coding region that codes for an amino acid sequence positioned at the amino terminus of a polypeptide. The resultant polypeptide is known as a proenzyme or propolypeptide (or a zymogen in some cases). A propolypeptide is generally inactive and can be converted to a mature active polypeptide by catalytic or autocatalytic cleavage of the propeptide from the propolypeptide. The propeptide coding region may be obtained from the genes for *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* alpha-factor, *Rhizomucor miehei* aspartic proteinase, and *Myceliophthora thermophila* laccase (WO 95/33836).

Where both signal peptide and propeptide regions are present at the amino terminus of a polypeptide, the propeptide region is positioned next to the amino terminus of a polypeptide and the signal peptide region is positioned next to the amino terminus of the propeptide region.

It may also be desirable to add regulatory sequences which allow the regulation of the expression of the biological substance relative to the growth of the host cell. Examples of regulatory systems are those which cause the expression of the gene to be turned on or off in response to a chemical or physical stimulus, including the presence of a regulatory compound. In yeast, the ADH2 system or GAL1 system may be used. In filamentous fungi, the TAKA alpha-amylase promoter, *Aspergillus niger* glucoamylase promoter, *Aspergillus oryzae* glucoamylase promoter, and *Fusarium venenatum* glucoamylase promoter may be used as

regulatory sequences. Other examples of regulatory sequences are those which allow for gene amplification. In eukaryotic systems, these include the dihydrofolate reductase gene which is amplified in the presence of methotrexate, and the metallothionein genes which are amplified with heavy metals. In these cases, the nucleic acid sequence encoding the biological substance would be operably linked with the regulatory sequence.

The present invention also relates to nucleic acid constructs for altering the expression of a gene encoding a biological substance which is endogenous to a host cell. The constructs may contain the minimal number of components necessary for altering expression of the endogenous gene. In one embodiment, the nucleic acid constructs preferably contain (a) a targeting sequence, (b) a promoter variant of the present invention, (c) an exon, and (d) a splice-donor site. Upon introduction of the nucleic acid construct into a cell, the construct inserts by homologous recombination into the cellular genome at the endogenous gene site. The targeting sequence directs the integration of elements (a)-(d) into the endogenous gene such that elements (b)-(d) are operably linked to the endogenous gene. In another embodiment, the nucleic acid constructs contain (a) a targeting sequence, (b) a promoter variant of the present invention, (c) an exon, (d) a splice-donor site, (e) an intron, and (f) a splice-acceptor site, wherein the targeting sequence directs the integration of elements (a)-(f) such that elements (b)-(f) are operably linked to the endogenous gene. However, the constructs may contain additional components such as a selectable marker.

In both embodiments, the introduction of these components results in production of a new transcription unit in which expression of the endogenous gene is altered. In essence, the new transcription unit is a fusion product of the sequences introduced by the targeting constructs and the endogenous gene. In one embodiment in which the endogenous gene is altered, the gene is activated. In this embodiment, homologous recombination is used to replace, disrupt, or disable the regulatory region normally associated with the endogenous gene of a parent cell through the insertion of a regulatory sequence which causes the gene to be expressed at higher levels than evident in the corresponding parent cell. The activated gene can be further amplified by the inclusion of an amplifiable selectable marker gene in the construct using methods well known in the art (see, for example, U.S. Patent No. 5,641,670). In another embodiment in which the endogenous gene is altered, expression of the gene is reduced.

The targeting sequence can be within the endogenous gene, immediately adjacent to the gene, within an upstream gene, or upstream of and at a distance from the endogenous

gene. One or more targeting sequences can be used. For example, a circular plasmid or DNA fragment preferably employs a single targeting sequence, while a linear plasmid or DNA fragment preferably employs two targeting sequences.

The constructs further contain one or more exons of the endogenous gene. An exon is defined as a DNA sequence which is copied into RNA and is present in a mature mRNA molecule such that the exon sequence is in-frame with the coding region of the endogenous gene. The exons can, optionally, contain DNA which encodes one or more amino acids and/or partially encodes an amino acid. Alternatively, the exon contains DNA which corresponds to a 5' non-encoding region. Where the exogenous exon or exons encode one or more amino acids and/or a portion of an amino acid, the nucleic acid construct is designed such that, upon transcription and splicing, the reading frame is in-frame with the coding region of the endogenous gene so that the appropriate reading frame of the portion of the mRNA derived from the second exon is unchanged.

The splice-donor site of the constructs directs the splicing of one exon to another exon. Typically, the first exon lies 5' of the second exon, and the splice-donor site overlapping and flanking the first exon on its 3' side recognizes a splice-acceptor site flanking the second exon on the 5' side of the second exon. A splice-acceptor site, like a splice-donor site, is a sequence which directs the splicing of one exon to another exon. Acting in conjunction with a splice-donor site, the splicing apparatus uses a splice-acceptor site to effect the removal of an intron.

The present invention further relates to methods for producing a biological substance comprising (a) cultivating a homologously recombinant cell, having incorporated therein a new transcription unit comprising a promoter variant of the present invention, an exon, and/or a splice donor site operably linked to a second exon of an endogenous nucleic acid sequence encoding the biological substance, under conditions conducive for production of the biological substance; and (b) recovering the biological substance. The methods are based on the use of gene activation technology, for example, as described in U.S. Patent No. 5,641,670.

Expression Vectors

The present invention also relates to recombinant expression vectors comprising a promoter variant of the present invention, a nucleic acid sequence encoding a biological substance, and transcriptional and translational stop signals. The various nucleic acid and control sequences described above may be joined together to produce a recombinant expression vector which may include one or more convenient restriction sites to allow for

insertion or substitution of the promoter and/or nucleic acid sequence encoding the biological substance at such sites. Alternatively, the nucleic acid sequence may be expressed by inserting the nucleic acid sequence or a nucleic acid construct comprising the promoter variant and/or sequence into an appropriate vector for expression. In creating the expression vector, the coding sequence is located in the vector so that the coding sequence is operably linked with a promoter variant of the present invention and one or more appropriate control sequences for expression.

The recombinant expression vector may be any vector (e.g., a plasmid or virus) which can be conveniently subjected to recombinant DNA procedures and can bring about the expression of the nucleic acid sequence. The choice of the vector will typically depend on the compatibility of the vector with the host cell into which the vector is to be introduced. The vectors may be linear or closed circular plasmids.

The vector may be an autonomously replicating vector, *i.e.*, a vector which exists as an extrachromosomal entity, the replication of which is independent of chromosomal replication, e.g., a plasmid, an extrachromosomal element, a minichromosome, or an artificial chromosome. The vector may contain any means for assuring self-replication. Alternatively, the vector may be one which, when introduced into the host cell, is integrated into the genome and replicated together with the chromosome(s) into which it has been integrated. Furthermore, a single vector or plasmid or two or more vectors or plasmids which together contain the total DNA to be introduced into the genome of the host cell, or a transposon may be used.

The vectors of the present invention preferably contain one or more selectable markers which permit easy selection of transformed cells. A selectable marker is a gene the product of which provides for biocide or viral resistance, resistance to heavy metals, prototrophy to auxotrophs, and the like. Suitable markers for yeast host cells are ADE2, HIS3, LEU2, LYS2, MET3, TRP1, and URA3. Selectable markers for use in a filamentous fungal host cell include, but are not limited to, *amdS* (acetamidase), *argB* (ornithine carbamoyltransferase), *bar* (phosphinothricin acetyltransferase), *hygB* (hygromycin phosphotransferase), *niaD* (nitrate reductase), *pyrG* (orotidine-5'-phosphate decarboxylase), *sC* (sulfate adenylyltransferase), *trpC* (anthranilate synthase), as well as equivalents thereof. Preferred for use in an *Aspergillus* cell are the *amdS* and *pyrG* genes of *Aspergillus nidulans* or *Aspergillus oryzae* and the *bar* gene of *Streptomyces hygroscopicus*. Preferred for use in a *Fusarium* cell is the *bar*, *amdS*, *pyrG*, or *hygB* gene.

The vectors of the present invention preferably contain an element(s) that permits stable integration of the vector into the host cell's genome or autonomous replication of the vector in the cell independent of the genome.

For integration into the host cell genome, the vector may rely on the nucleic acid sequence encoding the biological substance or any other element of the vector for stable integration of the vector into the genome by homologous or nonhomologous recombination. Alternatively, the vector may contain additional nucleic acid sequences for directing integration by homologous recombination into the genome of the host cell. The additional nucleic acid sequences enable the vector to be integrated into the host cell genome at a precise location(s) in the chromosome(s). To increase the likelihood of integration at a precise location, the integrational elements should preferably contain a sufficient number of nucleic acids, such as 100 to 1,500 base pairs, preferably 400 to 1,500 base pairs, and most preferably 800 to 1,500 base pairs, which are highly homologous with the corresponding target sequence to enhance the probability of homologous recombination. The integrational elements may be any sequence that is homologous with the target sequence in the genome of the host cell. Furthermore, the integrational elements may be non-encoding or encoding nucleic acid sequences. On the other hand, the vector may be integrated into the genome of the host cell by non-homologous recombination.

For autonomous replication, the vector may further comprise an origin of replication enabling the vector to replicate autonomously in the host cell in question. Examples of a plasmid replicator useful in a yeast cell are the 2 micron origin of replication, ARS1, ARS4, the combination of ARS1 and CEN3, and the combination of ARS4 and CEN6. Examples of a plasmid replicator useful in a filamentous fungal cell are AMA1 and ANS1 (Gems *et al.*, 1991, *Gene* 98:61-67; Cullen *et al.*, 1987, *Nucleic Acids Research* 15: 9163-9175; WO 00/24883). Isolation of the AMA1 gene and construction of plasmids or vectors comprising the gene can be accomplished according to the methods disclosed in WO 00/24883. The origin of replication may be one having a mutation which makes its functioning temperature-sensitive in the host cell (see, e.g., Ehrlich, 1978, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA* 75: 1433).

More than one copy of a nucleic acid sequence encoding a biological substance may be inserted into the host cell to increase production of the gene product. An increase in the copy number of the nucleic acid sequence can be obtained by integrating at least one additional copy of the sequence into the host cell genome or by including an amplifiable selectable marker gene with the nucleic acid sequence where cells containing amplified copies of the selectable

marker gene, and thereby additional copies of the nucleic acid sequence, can be selected for by cultivating the cells in the presence of the appropriate selectable agent.

The procedures used to ligate the elements described above to construct the recombinant expression vectors of the present invention are well known to one skilled in the art (see, e.g., Sambrook *et al.*, 1989, *supra*).

Host Cells

The present invention also relates to recombinant host cells, comprising a promoter variant of the present invention operably linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding a biological substance, which are advantageously used in the recombinant production of the biological substances. A vector comprising a promoter variant of the present invention operably linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding a biological substance is introduced into a host cell so that the vector is maintained as a chromosomal integrant or as a self-replicating extra-chromosomal vector as described earlier. The term "host cell" encompasses any progeny of a parent cell that is not identical to the parent cell due to mutations that occur during replication. The choice of a host cell will to a large extent depend upon the gene encoding the biological substance and its source.

The host cell may be any fungal cell useful in the methods of the present invention. "Fungi" as used herein includes the phyla Ascomycota, Basidiomycota, Chytridiomycota, and Zygomycota (as defined by Hawksworth *et al.*, In, *Ainsworth and Bisby's Dictionary of The Fungi*, 8th edition, 1995, CAB International, University Press, Cambridge, UK) as well as the Oomycota (as cited in Hawksworth *et al.*, 1995, *supra*, page 171) and all mitosporic fungi (Hawksworth *et al.*, 1995, *supra*).

In a preferred embodiment, the fungal host cell is a yeast cell. "Yeast" as used herein includes ascosporogenous yeast (Endomycetales), basidiosporogenous yeast, and yeast belonging to the Fungi Imperfecti (Blastomycetes). Since the classification of yeast may change in the future, for the purposes of this invention, yeast shall be defined as described in *Biology and Activities of Yeast* (Skinner, F.A., Passmore, S.M., and Davenport, R.R., eds, Soc. App. Bacteriol. Symposium Series NO: 9, 1980).

In a more preferred embodiment, the yeast host cell is a *Candida*, *Hansenula*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Pichia*, *Saccharomyces*, *Schizosaccharomyces*, or *Yarrowia* cell.

In a most preferred embodiment, the yeast host cell is a *Saccharomyces carlsbergensis*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces diastaticus*, *Saccharomyces douglasii*,

Saccharomyces kluyveri, *Saccharomyces norbensis* or *Saccharomyces oviformis* cell. In another most preferred embodiment, the yeast host cell is a *Kluyveromyces lactis* cell. In another most preferred embodiment, the yeast host cell is a *Yarrowia lipolytica* cell.

In another preferred embodiment, the fungal host cell is a filamentous fungal cell.

5 "Filamentous fungi" include all filamentous forms of the subdivision Eumycota and Oomycota (as defined by Hawksworth *et al.*, 1995, *supra*). The filamentous fungi are characterized by a mycelial wall composed of chitin, cellulose, glucan, chitosan, mannan, and other complex polysaccharides. Vegetative growth is by hyphal elongation and carbon catabolism is obligately aerobic. In contrast, vegetative growth by yeasts such as *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* is by
10 budding of a unicellular thallus and carbon catabolism may be fermentative.

In a more preferred embodiment, the filamentous fungal host cell is a cell of a species of, but not limited to, *Acremonium*, *Aspergillus*, *Fusarium*, *Humicola*, *Mucor*, *Myceliophthora*, *Neurospora*, *Penicillium*, *Thielavia*, *Tolypocladium*, or *Trichoderma*.

In a most preferred embodiment, the filamentous fungal host cell is an *Aspergillus*
15 *awamori*, *Aspergillus foetidus*, *Aspergillus japonicus*, *Aspergillus nidulans*, *Aspergillus niger* or *Aspergillus oryzae* cell. In another most preferred embodiment, the filamentous fungal host cell is a *Fusarium bactridioides*, *Fusarium cerealis*, *Fusarium crookwellense*, *Fusarium culmorum*, *Fusarium graminearum*, *Fusarium graminum*, *Fusarium heterosporum*, *Fusarium negundi*, *Fusarium oxysporum*, *Fusarium reticulatum*, *Fusarium roseum*, *Fusarium sambucinum*,
20 *Fusarium sarcochroum*, *Fusarium sporotrichioides*, *Fusarium sulphureum*, *Fusarium torulosum*, *Fusarium trichothecioides*, or *Fusarium venenatum* cell. In another most preferred embodiment, the filamentous fungal host cell is a *Humicola insolens*, *Humicola lanuginosa*, *Mucor miehei*, *Myceliophthora thermophila*, *Neurospora crassa*, *Penicillium purpurogenum*, *Thielavia terrestris*, *Trichoderma harzianum*, *Trichoderma koningii*, *Trichoderma*
25 *longibrachiatum*, *Trichoderma reesei*, or *Trichoderma viride* cell.

In an even most preferred embodiment, the *Fusarium venenatum* cell is *Fusarium venenatum* A3/5, which was originally deposited as *Fusarium graminearum* ATCC 20334 and recently reclassified as *Fusarium venenatum* by Yoder and Christianson, 1998, *Fungal Genetics and Biology* 23: 62-80 and O'Donnell *et al.*, 1998, *Fungal Genetics and Biology* 23:
30 57-67; as well as taxonomic equivalents of *Fusarium venenatum* regardless of the species name by which they are currently known. In another preferred embodiment, the *Fusarium venenatum* cell is a morphological mutant of *Fusarium venenatum* A3/5 or *Fusarium venenatum* ATCC 20334, as disclosed in WO 97/26330.

Minimal medium transfer and transformation plates (pH 6.5) were composed per liter of 6 g of NaNO_3 , 0.52 g of KCL, 1.52 g of KH_2PO_4 , 1 ml of Cove trace elements, 20 grams of Noble agar with addition of 20 ml of 50% glucose, 2.5 ml of 20% $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and 20 ml of 0.02% biotin after autoclaving. Transformation plates contained all of the above ingredients plus sucrose at a final concentration of 0.8 M.

Cove trace elements solution was composed per liter of 0.04 g of $\text{Na}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 0.4 g of $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 1.2 g of $\text{FeSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 0.7 g of $\text{MnSO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$, 0.8 g of $\text{Na}_2\text{MoO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, and 10 g of $\text{ZnSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$.

Vogels $\text{NH}_4\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4$ plates were composed per liter of 20 ml of 50X Vogels salts, 15 g of sucrose, 25 g of Noble agar with addition of 50 ml of $\text{NH}_4\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4$ (1 M pH 6) after autoclaving.

M400 medium (pH 6) was composed per liter of 50 g of maltodextrin, 2 g of $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 2 g KH_2PO_4 , 4 g of citric acid, 8 g of yeast extract, 2 g of urea, 0.5 ml of AMG trace elements, and 0.5 g of CaCl_2 .

AMG trace elements solution was composed per liter of 14.3 g of $\text{ZnSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 2.5 g of $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 0.5 g of $\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 13.8 g of $\text{FeSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 8.5 g of $\text{MnSO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$, and 3 g of citric acid.

Chlorate plates were composed per liter of 20 ml of Cove salt solution, 61.28 g of potassium chlorate, 0.3 g of urea, and 25 g of Noble agar.

Cove salt solution was composed per liter of 26 g of KCl, 26 g of $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 76 g of KH_2PO_4 , and 50 ml of Cove trace elements solution.

LB plus ampicillin broth was composed per liter of 10 g of tryptone, 5 g of yeast extract, 5 g of sodium chloride, and 100 mg of ampicillin.

LB plus ampicillin plates were composed of 1 liter of LB plus ampicillin broth with 15 g of bacto agar.

YP-5%glucose broth was composed per liter of 10 g of yeast extract, 20 g of bacto peptone, and 5% glucose.

2XYT plus ampicillin was composed per liter of 16 g of tryptone, 10 g of yeast extract, 5 g of sodium chloride, and 100 mg of ampicillin.

2XYT plus ampicillin plates were composed per liter of 2XYT + ampicillin broth plus 15 g of bacto agar.

NYZ plus broth (pH 7.5) was composed per liter of 5 g of NaCl, 2 g of $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 5 g of yeast extract, 10 g of NZ amine (casein hydrolysate), 12.5 ml of 1 M MgCl_2 , 12.5 ml of 1 M MgSO_4 , and 20 ml of 20% glucose.

NZY top agarose was composed per liter of 5 g of NaCl, 2 g of MgSO₄·7H₂O, 5 g of yeast extract, 10 g of NZ amine (casein hydrolysate), and 7 g of agarose.

DNA Sequencing

DNA sequencing was done with a Perkin-Elmer Applied Biosystems Model 3700 Automatic DNA Sequencer (Perkin-Elmer Applied Biosystems, Inc., Foster City, CA) using dye-terminator chemistry (Giesecke *et al.*, 1992, *Journal of Virology Methods* 38: 47-60) and the reverse or forward lac sequencing primer or sequence specific primers.

Example 1: Construction of pDM237

pDM237 (Figure 2) was constructed to contain a 4.4 kb *EcoRI/HindIII* *Fusarium venenatum* *niaD* fragment cloned into pBluescript SK(-) (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA). The *niaD* insert was composed of a 1.8 kb *KpnI/EcoRI* fragment from clone F (a genomic *niaD* clone) and a 2.6 kb *KpnI/HindIII* fragment from pDM201 (a genomic clone of *niaD*).

The *niaD* genomic clones were isolated from the Lambda ZipLox *Fusarium venenatum* genomic library described previously (U.S. Patent 6,361,973). Clone pDM201 was isolated by probing the library with a 1.1 kb *Fusarium oxysporum* *niaD* fragment (Diolez *et al.*, 1993, *Gene* 131: 61-67). The *Fusarium oxysporum* probe was amplified from *Fusarium oxysporum* genomic DNA using the following primers:

5'-ATCGAGGGTGCCAATGTG-3' (foxy.nia1) (SEQ ID NO: 13)

5'-GCCATTACGACCTCAGC-3' (foxy.nia2) (SEQ ID NO: 14)

The 100 µl PCR reaction contained 10 µg of genomic DNA, 50 pmol of each primer, 1X *Taq* buffer (Boehringer Mannheim, Indianapolis, IN), 200 µM each of dATP, dCTP, dGTP, and dTTP, and 5 units of *Pwo* DNA polymerase (Boehringer Mannheim, Indianapolis, IN). PCR conditions used were 95°C for 3 minutes followed by 30 cycles at 95°C for 30 seconds, 50°C for 1 minute, and 72°C for 1 minute. The final extension cycle was at 72°C for 5 minutes. The PCR product was subcloned using the TA cloning kit from Invitrogen (Carlsbad, CA). The subclones were checked by restriction digest with *EcoRI* and confirmed by nucleotide sequencing using the M13 universal forward and reverse primers. One of the clones was confirmed to contain the 1.1 kb *niaD* insert and was named pDM197.

To prepare a DIG-labeled probe of the *Fusarium oxysporum* *niaD* fragment, pDM197 was digested with *EcoRI* and a 1.1 kb fragment was isolated following gel electrophoresis on a 0.8% agarose gel using 40 mM Tris-acetate, 1 mM disodium EDTA buffer (TAE) and extraction

of the DNA from the gel using the QIAquick Gel Extraction Kit (Qiagen, Inc., Chatsworth, CA). The probe was prepared by PCR using the primers foxy.nia1 and foxy.nia2 described above. The 100 µl PCR reaction contained 6 ng of 1.1 kb *EcoRI* *niaD* fragment, 50 pmol of each primer, 1X *Taq* buffer (Boehringer Mannheim, Indianapolis, IN), 10 µl of 10X DIG labeling mix (Boehringer Mannheim, Indianapolis, IN), and 5 units of *Taq* DNA polymerase (Boehringer Mannheim, Indianapolis, IN). PCR conditions used were 95°C for 3 minutes followed by 30 cycles at 95°C for 30 seconds, 50°C for 1 minute, and 72°C for 1 minute. The final extension cycle was at 72°C for 5 minutes.

Approximately 90,000 plaques from the *Fusarium venenatum* genomic DNA library were screened by hybridization (Davis *et al.*, 1986, *Basic Methods in Molecular Biology*, Elsevier Science Publishing Co., Inc., New York) with the DIG-labeled probe using medium stringency conditions [*i.e.*, hybridization at 37°C in DIG Easy hyb (Boehringer Mannheim, Germany); filters washed twice in 2X SSC with 0.1% SDS at room temperature for 5 minutes followed by two washes in 0.2X SSC with 0.1% SDS at the same temperature for 15 minutes)]. For detection of the DIG-labeled probe the standard Genius protocol from Boehringer Mannheim was followed using CPD Star as the substrate following the manufacturer's protocols. Plaques providing hybridization signals were purified twice on *E. coli* Y1090ZL cells, and the individual clones were subsequently excised from the λ ZipLox vector as pZL1-derivatives (D'Alessio *et al.*, 1992, *Focus*® 14: 76). DNA sequence analysis revealed that one of these clones, containing a plasmid designated pDM201, contained the *niaD* gene, but was missing approximately 400 bp at the 5' end of the open reading frame.

In order to obtain a genomic clone containing the entire *niaD* open reading frame as well as the promoter, the genomic clone pDM201 was used to create a probe to a 0.46 kb fragment at the 5' end of the open reading frame. The probe was prepared by PCR using the following primers:

5' CCCCATAAAGATGGCTGTA 3' (niaprobe.plus) (SEQ ID NO: 15)

5' TCGCTAGGCTCTTGGGTGAC 3' (niaprobe.minus) (SEQ ID NO: 16)

The 50 µl PCR reaction contained 6 ng of pDM201, 50 pmol each primer, 1X *Taq* buffer (Boehringer Mannheim, Indianapolis, IN), 5 µl of 10X DIG labeling mix (Boehringer Mannheim, Indianapolis, IN), and 5 units of *Taq* DNA polymerase (Boehringer Mannheim, Indianapolis, IN). PCR conditions used were 95°C for 3 minutes followed by 30 cycles at 95°C for 30 seconds, 50°C for 1 minute, and 72°C for 1.5 minutes. The final extension cycle was at 72°C for 5 minutes.

Approximately 80,000 plaques from the *Fusarium venenatum* genomic DNA library were screened by hybridization (Davis *et al.*, 1986, *supra*) with the DIG-labeled probe using high stringency conditions (*i.e.*, hybridization at 65°C in DIG Easy hyb; filters washed twice in 2X SSC with 0.1% SDS at room temperature for 5 minutes followed by two washes in 0.1X SSC with 0.1% SDS at 65°C for 15 minutes). For detection of the DIG-labeled probe the standard Genius protocol from Boehringer Mannheim was followed using CPD Star as the substrate following the manufacturer's protocols. Plaques yielding hybridization signals were purified twice on *E. coli* Y1090ZL cells, and the individual clones were subsequently excised from the λ ZipLox vector as pZL1-derivatives. DNA sequence analysis revealed that one of these clones, containing a plasmid designated clone F, contained the *niaD* gene as well as 1.6 kb of the promoter. However, the clone was missing 450 bp at the 3' end of the open reading frame.

Plasmid pDM237 (Figure 2), containing the entire *niaD* open reading frame as well as the promoter and terminator, was created. pDM237 consisted of a 4.4 kb *EcoRI/HindIII* *Fusarium venenatum niaD* fragment cloned into pBluescript SK(-) (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA) constructed as described below. The *niaD* insert consisted of a 1.8 kb *KpnI/EcoRI* fragment from clone F and a 2.6 kb *KpnI/HindIII* fragment from pDM201. Following restriction digests of pDM201 and clone F with *KpnI/HindIII* and *KpnI/EcoRI*; respectively, and electrophoresis on an agarose gel using TAE buffer, the desired fragments were isolated using a QIA quick gel extraction kit. The plasmid pBluescript SK(-) was digested with *EcoRI/HindIII* followed by electrophoresis and isolation as described above. The 2.9 kb pBluescript SK(-) plasmid was ligated with the 1.8 kb *KpnI/EcoRI* and the 2.6 kb *KpnI/HindIII* fragments for three hours at 14°C followed by transformation of SURE competent cells from Stratagene (La Jolla, CA), selecting on 2XYT ampicillin plates. Plasmid DNA was isolated from clones, and the restriction analysis was used to confirm that the clone pDM237 contained the desired insert.

Example 2: Construction of pJRoy72

pJRoy72 (Figure 3) was constructed by ligating a 0.9 kb PCR product containing a *Thermomyces lanuginosus* lipase gene, a 2.1 kb *StuI/BspLU11I* from pRaMB62-int1 (U.S. Patent No. 6,361,973) and *PmeI/PacI* digested pRaMB60 (U.S. Patent No. 6,361,973). The lipase fragment was amplified from pDM194 (U.S. Patent No. 6,361,973) using the following primers:

5'-GACTCATGAGGAGCTCCCTTGTGCTGTTC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 17)

5'-TGATTAATTAACCTAAAGACATGTCCCAATTAAC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 18)

The 100 µl PCR reaction contained 15 ng of pDM194, 50 pmol of each primer, 1X PCR buffer (Perkin-Elmer Corp., Branchburg, NJ), 250 µM each of dATP, dCTP, dGTP, and dTTP, and 5 units of *Pwo* DNA polymerase (Boehringer Mannheim, Indianapolis, IN). The PCR conditions used were one cycle at 94°C for two minutes, 10 cycles of 94°C for 30 seconds, 55°C for 45 seconds, and 72°C for two minutes followed by 17 cycles at 94°C for 30 seconds, 55°C for 45 seconds, and 72°C for two minutes with an extension of 20 seconds more for each cycle. The final cycle was 72°C for 10 minutes. The 0.9 kb PCR product was ethanol precipitated followed by digestion with *PacI* and *BspHI*.

The *PmeI/PacI* digested pRaMB60, *StuI/BspLU11I* digested pRaMB62-int1 and 0.9 kb PCR product were electrophoresed on a 1% agarose gel using TAE buffer, and the DNA was purified from the excised band using a Qiaquick kit following the manufacturer's protocol.

To construct pJRoy72, the 5.8 kb *PmeI/PacI* fragment of pRaMB60 was ligated with the 0.9 kb *PacI/BspHI* lipase fragment and the 2.1 kb *StuI/BspLU11I* fragment from pRaMB62-int1. The resulting vector, pJRoy72 (Figure 3), contained the *Thermomyces lanuginosus* lipase gene under the control of the *Fusarium venenatum* glucoamylase promoter (SEQ ID NO: 1).

Example 3: Construction of pNham1

Plasmid pNham1 (Figure 4) was constructed using the following strategy: A 1.6 kb fragment containing the *niaD* promoter was isolated by digesting pDM237 with *BamHI/EcoRI* and a 760 bp fragment containing the *niaD* terminal region was isolated by digesting pNham3 of Example 5 with *BamHI/HindIII*. A fragment of approximately 1.6 kb containing the *Aspergillus oryzae* *pyrG* gene was obtained by digesting pSMO122 (U.S. Patent 5,958,727) with *BamHI*. A 2.9 kb backbone vector fragment was generated by digesting pBluescript SK(-) with *EcoRI* and *HindIII* followed by treatment with shrimp alkaline phosphatase (Boehringer-Mannheim, Germany) to prevent self-ligation. After digestion, all the fragments were isolated by electrophoresis on a 0.7% agarose gel using TAE buffer followed by excision of the bands containing the desired fragments and isolation of the DNA from the gel using the Qiaquick Gel Extraction Kit following the manufacturer's protocol. All gel-purified fragments were ligated together to construct pNham1 using Rapid DNA Ligation Kit (Boehringer Mannheim, Germany) with the following ligation mix: 2 µl of *BamHI/HindIII* fragment from pNham3, 2 µl of *BamHI/EcoRI* fragment from pDM237, 2 µl of *BamHI* from pSMO122, 1 µl of pBluescript SK(-), 10 µl of 2X T4 DNA dilution buffer, 2 µl of 5X DNA dilution buffer, and 1 µl of T4 ligase. The

ligation reaction was incubated at room temperature for 30 minutes. Epicurian *E. coli* XL Blue competent cells (Stratagene, La Jolla, Ca.) were transformed, and transformants were selected on 2XYT ampicillin plates. Plasmid DNA was isolated from several of the transformant colonies by inoculating a colony into 2.5 ml of LB medium supplemented with ampicillin (100 µg/ml). The tube was incubated at 37°C for overnight with shaking at 250 rpm. Plasmid DNA was isolated using the Qiagen BioRobot following the manufacturer's protocols. The plasmids were analyzed by restriction enzyme digestion to confirm the correct inserts.

Example 4: Construction of pNham2

Plasmid pNham2 (Figure 5) was constructed to contain the truncated *Fusarium venenatum niaD* gene and an expression cassette where the *Thermomyces lanuginosus* lipase gene is sandwiched between the *Fusarium venenatum* glucoamylase promoter and the *Fusarium oxysporum* trypsin terminator. A 1.1 kb fragment containing the terminator of *Fusarium oxysporum* trypsin gene and a 3.0 kb fragment containing the *Thermomyces lanuginosus* lipase/glucoamylase promoter regions were isolated by digesting pJRoy72 with *PacI/ClaI* and *PacI/NotI*, respectively. A 3.6 kb fragment containing a truncated *niaD* fragment was obtained by digesting pDM237 with *XbaI/ClaI*. A 3.9 kb fragment containing the backbone vector was prepared by digesting pCR2.1®-TOPO® (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) with *XbaI* and *NotI* followed by treatment with shrimp alkaline phosphatase (Boehringer-Mannheim, Indianapolis, IN) to prevent self-ligation. After digestion all the fragments were isolated by electrophoresis on a 0.7% agarose gel using TAE buffer followed by excision of the bands containing the desired fragments and isolation of the DNA from the gel using the Qiaquick Gel Extraction Kit following the manufacturer's protocol.

pNham2 was obtained by ligation of 2 µl of the *PacI/ClaI* fragment from pJRoy72, 2 µl of the *PacI/NotI* fragment from pJRoy72, 2 µl of the *XbaI/ClaI* fragment from pDM237, 1 µl of the *XbaI/NotI* fragment from pCR2.1®-TOPO®, 1 µl of 10X ligation buffer, and 1 µl of T4 DNA ligase using the Rapid DNA Ligation Kit (Boehringer Mannheim, Germany). The ligation reaction was incubated at 14°C for 24 hours. Epicurian *E. coli* XL blue competent cells (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA) were transformed, and transformants were selected on LB plates supplemented with 50 mg of ampicillin per liter. Plasmid DNA was isolated from several of the transformant colonies and analyzed by endonuclease digestion and by sequencing of pNham2 to confirm the sequence of the glucomylase promoter.

Example 5: Construction of pNham3

A 760 bp fragment of the *Bam*HI/*Hind*III *niaD* terminator from pDM237 was amplified by PCR with the following primers:

5'-GGATCCTTGAATAAGCGTAAATAGGG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 19)

5'-AAGCTTGCTGAGCATTGACTGCC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 20)

The PCR reaction contained 1 µl of 1:10 dilution of pDM237 (0.3µg/µl-0.35µg/µl), 5 µl of 10x *Taq* buffer (Perkin Elmer Corp., Branchburg, NJ), 1 µl of 25 mM dNTPs (Boehringer Mannheim, Indianapolis, IN), 1 µl of 50 pmol primer 1, 1 µl of 50 pmol primer 2, 0.5 µl of 5units/µl *Taq* polymearse (Perkin Elmer), and 40.5 µl of distilled water. The PCR reaction was performed in an Ericomp TwinBlock Thermal Cycler with the following cycling parameters and conditions: 1 cycle at 95°C for 3 minutes followed by 25 cycles at 95°C for 30 seconds, 55°C for 30 seconds, and 72°C for 1 minute followed by 1 cycle at 72°C for 10 minutes. An aliquot of the PCR reaction was electrophoresed on a 1% agarose-TAE gel to verify the amplification of a 760 bp fragment.

The 760 bp PCR product of the *Fusarium venenatum niaD* terminator was cloned into pCRII using Topo TA cloning Kit (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) following the manufacturer's protocol for cloning and transformation. Plasmid DNA was isolated from several of the transformants and sequence analysis was performed to confirm the clones that contain the 760 bp insert.

Example 6: Construction of *Fusarium venenatum pyrG* mutant DLM15

A 0.78 kb fragment of the *Neurospora crassa pyr-4* gene was labeled in a PCR reaction containing digoxigenin (DIG)-labeled deoxyuridine-triphosphate (dUTP) using the primers described below.

Primer 94-885 (sense):

5'-GTCAGGAAACGCAGCCACAC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 21)

Primer 94-959 (anti-sense):

5'-AGGCAGCCCTTGGACGACAT -3' (SEQ ID NO: 22)

A 1.1 kb *Hind*III fragment purified from plasmid pFB6 (Fungal Genetics Stock Center) was used as template. The PCR conditions for the *Taq* polymerase reaction were 95°C for 3 minutes followed by 35 cycles of 95°C for 30 seconds, 55°C for 1 minute and 72°C for 1 minute.

A final extension was performed 5 minutes at 72°C. The DIG-labeled probe was used to screen a genomic library of *Fusarium venenatum* strain ATCC 20334 DNA cloned into lambda vector EMBL4 using the same procedure described in Royer *et al.*, 1995, *Bio/Technology* 13: 1479-1483. Lambda phage were plated with *E. coli* K802 cells (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA) onto LB plates with NZY top agarose. Plaque lifts were made to nylon membranes (Hybond™ membrane, Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, UK) using standard techniques. DNA was bound to the membranes by UV crosslinking. Filters were hybridized with the 0.78 kb DIG-labeled probe described above. Hybridization and detection of *pyrG* clones were performed using techniques described in the Boehringer Mannheim Genius™ System User's Guide. Hybridizations were performed at 42°C in 5X SSC, 35% formamide, 0.1% L-lauroylsarcosine, 0.02% SDS, 1% blocking reagent for nucleic acid hybridization (Boehringer Mannheim, Indianapolis, IN). The concentration of DIG-labeled probe used was 2.5 ng per ml of hybridization solution. Hybridizing DNA was immunodetected with an alkaline-phosphatase-conjugated anti-digoxigenin antibody and visualized with Lumiphos 530, a chemiluminescent substrate (Boehringer Mannheim, Indianapolis, IN). DNA preparations were made from putative positive lambda clones using the Qiagen Lambda Midi Kit (QIAGEN, Inc., Chatsworth, CA).

A 3.9 kb genomic *EcoRI pyrG* fragment was gel purified from one of the lambda clones and cloned into the *EcoRI* site of pUC118 yielding plasmid pDM156.2 (Figure 6). The *pyrG* fragment contained the entire coding region plus 1.3 kb of the promoter and 1.5 kb of the terminator.

Plasmid pDM222A (Figure 7) was constructed to create a 2.7 kb deletion at the *pyrG* locus. A 3.2 kb *PmeI/SwaI Aspergillus nidulans amdS* fragment with terminal *Aspergillus oryzae pyrG* repeats (Royer, *et al.*, 1999, *Fungal Genetics and Biology* 28: 68-78) taken from plasmid pJRoy47.1 was cloned into pDM156.2 to replace a 2.7 kb *StuI/EcoRV* portion of the *pyrG* locus producing pDM222A. This deletion included 0.78 kb of the promoter, the entire *pyrG* coding region, and 0.8 kb of the terminator region. The *pyrG* regions flanking the *amdS* insert were 0.5 kb at the 5' end and 0.7 kb at the 3' end. A 4.4 kb *EcoRI* fragment was gel purified from the *pyrG* deletion plasmid pDM222A and used to transform *Fusarium venenatum* strain MLY3.

To generate spores, 10 to 15 agar plugs from a fresh *Fusarium venenatum* MLY3 strain (7-14 days) were inoculated into 500 ml of RA medium for approximately 40 hours at 26°C with shaking at 150 rpm. Spores were harvested by filtration through sterile Miracloth (Calbiochem, La Jolla, CA) and spun for 20 minutes at 7974 x g with Sorvall RC-5B centrifuge. The pellet

was rinsed twice with 40 ml of distilled water followed by centrifugation at $1877 \times g$ for 20 minutes with Sorvall RT 6000D. A cell counting chamber (VWR Scientific, West Chester, PA) was used to determine the number of spores.

Protoplasts for transformation were generated as described below. A milliliter of fresh spores ($2 \times 10^8/\text{ml}$) was inoculated into a 500 ml baffled shake flask containing 100 ml of YP-5%glucose broth and incubated at 23.5°C for 16 hours at 150 rpm. The culture was filtered through sterile Miracloth followed by two rinses with 50 ml of distilled water and one rinse with sterile 50 ml of 1 M $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ($0.2 \mu\text{m}$ filtered). Germlings were collected using a sterile spatula and were resuspended with 100 mg of NOVOZYME 234TM (Novozymes A/S, Bagsvaerd, Denmark) in 20 ml 1 M $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$. After resuspension, the tube was incubated at 29°C , 90 rpm for 1 hour. Thirty milliliter of 1 M sorbitol was added to the tube followed by centrifugation for 10 minutes at $470 \times g$. The supernatant was discarded, and the pellet was resuspended in 1 ml of 1 M sorbitol followed by addition of 30 ml of 1 M sorbitol. The tube was centrifuged at $469 \times g$ for 5 minutes. The supernatant was discarded, and the pellet was resuspended in 1 ml of 1 M sorbitol followed by addition of 30 ml of 1 M sorbitol. Before centrifugation for 5 minutes at $470 \times g$, a $100 \mu\text{l}$ aliquot was transferred to an Eppendorf tube containing $900 \mu\text{l}$ of STC (0.8 M sorbitol, 25 mM, pH 8.0 Tris, 50 mM CaCl_2) to determine the number of protoplasts. The supernatant was discarded and the pellet was resuspended in STC:SPTC (40% PEG, 0.8 M sorbitol, 25 mM Tris pH 8.0, 50 mM CaCl_2):DMSO (9:1:0.1) to a final concentration of 5×10^7 protoplasts/ml. Protoplasts were stored at -80°C until use.

For transformation the transforming DNA was mixed with 2 ml of protoplasts ($5 \times 10^7/\text{ml}$) in a 50 ml Falcon tube followed by $50 \mu\text{l}$ of heparin (5mg/ml in STC) and $100 \mu\text{g}$ of DNA. The contents were gently mixed by rotation, and the tube was incubated on ice for 30 minutes. A $200 \mu\text{l}$ volume of SPTC was slowly added to the tube followed by 10 minutes of incubation at room temperature. An additional volume of 20 ml of SPTC was added to the reaction and gently mixed followed by 10 minutes of incubation at room temperature. Two ml of the transformation reaction was added to a Falcon tube containing 25 ml of COVE top agarose plus 10 mM uridine and the contents were mixed by gently inverting the tube. The mixture was then plated onto an underlay containing COVE medium.

The transformants were transferred to Vogel's acetamide agar plus or minus 10 mM uridine. Transformants which grew poorly on uridine minus medium were transferred to liquid minimal medium with and without 10 mM uridine. Mycelia were collected from strains which

grew well in uridine supplemented medium but did not grow without uridine. Genomic DNA was prepared by inoculating three agar plugs from a minimal medium plate supplemented with uridine containing the fungal strain of interest into a 125 ml flask containing 25 ml of M400 medium. The flask was incubated at 26°C for 3 days with shaking at 150 rpm. Fungal mycelia were then harvested from the culture by filtration through Miracloth followed by 2 washes with TE (per liter containing 1 M Tris-HCl pH8, 0.5 M EDTA pH 8). Mycelia were placed in a 15 ml Falcon tube and frozen in liquid nitrogen. Using a mortar and a pestle, frozen mycelia were grounded to a fine powder. The fine powder was quickly transferred into a 15 ml Falcon tube and a Qiagen DNeasy Plant kit (QIAGEN, Inc., Chatsworth, CA) was used to extract the genomic DNA following the manufacturer's protocol. Genomic DNA was digested with *EcoRI*. A Southern blot was prepared and probed with a 3.2 kb fluoroscein-labeled *pyrG* fragment. The *pyrG* fragment contained the entire coding region plus 1.3 kb of the promoter and 1.5 kb of the terminator. The Vistra fluorescence kit RPN 5751 from Amersham Life Science was used for labeling and the manufacturers instructions were followed for hybridizing and washing the blot. However, CDP-star (Roche Molecular Biochemicals) was used for signal detection and the blot was exposed to X-ray film instead of using the STORM FluorImager. Transformants, which yielded the predicted 4.4 kb hybridizing band characteristic of a clean double crossover event, were grown in liquid minimal medium plus 10 mM uridine for 63 hours at 28°C, 200 rpm. Spores were isolated by micromanipulation on Vogel's acetamide medium supplemented with 10 mM uridine. One spore isolate was grown in RA sporulation medium plus uridine 30 hours at 30°C, 150 rpm. Spores were separated from the mycelia by filtration through sterile Miracloth.

A 100 µl aliquot of the spore stock (9.5×10^5 spores) was spread onto each of 5 fluoroacetamide agar plates plus 10 mM uridine. Colonies which grew on fluoroacetamide plates were transferred to both fluoroacetamide and COVE agar. Colonies that grew well on fluoroacetamide and poorly or not at all on COVE were analyzed further. Spore isolates from three of these strains were subjected to Southern blot analysis. Genomic DNA was isolated as described above, digested with *EcoRI*, and probed with the *pyrG* probe described above. Several of the spore isolates yielded a 1.4 kb hybridizing band indicating an *amdS* "loop-out". One spore isolate was chosen and was designated *Fusarium venenatum* strain DLM15.

Example 7: Construction of DIG-labeled probes for *niaD*, *pyrG*, *Fusarium oxysporum* trypsin gene, and *Thermomyces lanuginosus* lipase gene for Southern analysis

The DIG-labeled probes for *niaD*, *pyrG*, *Fusarium oxysporum* trypsin gene, and *Thermomyces lanuginosus* lipase gene were constructed using a PCR DIG Probe Synthesis Kit (Boehringer Mannheim, Indianapolis, IN) following the manufacturer's guidelines. The primers listed below were used to produce the DIG-labeled probes for Southern analysis.

- 5 Primer 3: 5'-ACAATGTTATCAATCCTCTTA-3' (SEQ ID NO: 23)
Primer 4: 5'-TGTCCCATGTTCTCGGTGCTA-3' (SEQ ID NO: 24)
Primer 5: 5'-GCCGACGTGACAACCACCAAAGA-3' (SEQ ID NO: 25)
Primer 6: 5'-CCACGGGATCAGGAGCAGCATAAA-3' (SEQ ID NO: 26)
Primer 7: 5'-GAAGCGTCGAGATGTTCTTG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 27)
10 Primer 8: 5'-GGCAGACCGATGACTTTGG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 28)
Primer 9: 5'-GTTCTTTGTCTCTGCGTGGAC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 29)
Primer 10: 5'-GGATATCCGGAATGTTAGGC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 30)

Primer 3 and 4 were used to generate a 3.5 kb *niaD* fragment derived from the *niaD* gene of the pDM237. Primer 5 and 6 were used to produce a 719 bp *pyrG* fragment from pNham1. Primer 7 and 8 were used to generate a 756 bp *Fusarium oxysporum* trypsin gene
15 fragment from pNham2. Primer 9 and 10 were used to produce an 811 bp *Thermomyces lanuginosus* lipase fragment from pNham2.

The following components were added to PCR reactions to generate DIG-labeled probes for Southern analysis: 5 µl of PCR 10x buffer, 5 µl of DIG Synthesis Mix (vial 2), 1 µl of
20 upper primer (50 pmol/µl), 1 µl of lower primer (50 pmol/µl), 0.75 µl of Expand™ High Fidelity enzyme mix (vial 1), 1 µl of pDM237 or pNham1 or pNham2 (50-100 ng/µl), and 35.25 µl of distilled water.

PCR reactions were performed in an Eppendorf MasterCycler with the following cycling parameters and conditions as indicated by the respected DIG probe:

25 For the *niaD* probe, 1 cycle at 95°C for 3 minutes followed by 30 cycles at 95°C for 1 minute, 52.9°C for 1 minute, and 72°C for 3 ½ minutes followed by 1 cycle at 72°C for 10 minutes.

For the *pyrG* probe, 1 cycle at 95°C for 3 minutes followed by 30 cycles at 95°C for 1 minute, 60.1°C for 1 minute, and 72°C for 1 minute followed by 1 cycle at 72°C for 10 minutes.

30 For the *Fusarium oxysporum* trypsin gene probe, 1 cycle at 95°C for 3 minutes followed by 30 cycles at 95°C for 1 minute, 54.9°C for 1 minute, and 72°C for 1 minute followed by 1 cycle at 72°C for 10 minutes.

For the *Thermomyces lanuginosus* lipase probe, 1 cycle at 95°C for 3 minutes followed by 30 cycles at 95°C for 1 minute, 56.8° for 1 minute, and 72°C for 1 minute followed by 1 cycle at 72°C for 10 minutes.

5 PCR products were resolved on a 0.75% agarose gel in 1X TAE running buffer. The amplified DNA fragments were excised from the gel and purified using a Qiaquick Gel Extraction kit following the manufacturer's protocol.

Example 8: Construction of *Fusarium venenatum niaD* mutant

10 Plasmid pNham1 (Example 3) was used to construct a *Fusarium venenatum niaD* mutant. pNham1 was linearized with *Xho*I and *Eco*RI and transformed into the *Fusarium venenatum pyrG* mutant strain DLM15 (Example 6). For the transformation, 50 µg of the linearized pNham1 was used per transformation reaction as described in Example 7. One hundred and fourteen transformants grew on Vogels NH₄H₂PO₄ plates, and fifty of the transformants were tested for growth on chlorate plates. Forty of the fifty transformants tested
15 for growth on chlorate were resistant to chlorate as expected for a *niaD* mutant. These 40 chlorate resistance transformants were further evaluated for their ability to use nitrite rather than nitrate as the sole nitrogen source on minimal medium. All chlorate resistant transformants grew on nitrite as sole nitrogen source which is a phenotype characteristic of *niaD* mutants.

20 Six putative *niaD* mutant strains were selected to be analyzed and confirmed by Southern analysis. Genomic DNA was isolated from all six strains as follows. Three agar plugs were removed from a minimal medium plate containing the fungal strain of interest and placed in a 125 ml flask containing 25 ml of M400 medium. The flask was incubated at 26°C for 3 days with shaking at 150 rpm. Fungal mycelia were then harvested from the culture by filtration
25 through Miracloth followed by 2 washes with TE (per liter containing 1 M Tris-HCl pH8, 0.5 M EDTA pH 8). Mycelia were placed in a 15 ml Falcon tube and frozen in liquid nitrogen. Using a mortar and a pestle, frozen mycelia were grounded to a fine powder. The fine powder was quickly transferred into a 15 ml Falcon tube and a Qiagen DNeasy Plant kit (QIAGEN, Inc., Chatsworth, CA) was used to extract the genomic DNA following the manufacturer's protocol.

30 For Southern analysis, genomic DNA from the six putative *niaD* disrupted strains were digested with *Pst*II, *Nsi*I, and *Eco*RV and probed with either the 3.6 Kb *niaD* fragment from pDM237 (Example 8) or with the 780 bp *pyrG* fragment (Example 8) from pNham1. Genomic

DNA from *niaD* mutants and untransformed DLM15 strain were digested with *Nsi* I and *Pst* I, *EcoRV*, and *Bam*HI overnight at 37°C (11 µl of distilled water, 5 µl of genomic DNA (3 µg), 2 µl of 10X buffer, and 2 µl of the restriction endonucleases). After digestion, each reaction was resolved on a 1% agarose gel using TAE buffer containing 2 µl of ethidium bromide. The gels were submerged in 250 mM HCl for 10 minutes at room temperature with gentle agitation. The gels were rinsed in water for 5 minutes and then placed into denaturation buffer (0.5 M NaOH, 1.5 M NaCl) and gently agitated twice for 15 minutes at room temperature followed by a 5 minute rinse with water. The gels were then submerged in neutralization buffer (1 M Tris pH 8, 1.5 M NaCl) and gently agitated twice for 15 minutes at room temperature. The DNA was transferred to a Hybond™ membrane using Schleicher & Schuell Turbлотter (Schleicher & Schuell Inc. Keene, N.H.) with 10X SSC (1.5 M NaCl and 1.5 M sodium citrate) overnight.

On day two, the membranes were gently rinsed with 2X SSC for 5 minutes and then crosslinked in an UV Stratalinker™ (Stratagene, La Jolla, Ca.) at 120,000 joules/cm². The dried blots were then pre-hybridized in a glass tube containing 30 ml of DIG Easy Hyb at 42°C for at least 2 hours. After that time, the prehybridization solution was discarded and replaced with 7.5 ml of fresh DIG Easy Hyb containing 40 µl of gel purified DIG-labeled probe generated by PCR, which had been denatured in a boiling water bath for 10 minutes. The hybridization tube was incubated at 42°C in a Hybaid (National Labnet Company Woodbridge, NJ) oven overnight.

After hybridization, each blot was washed twice for 5 minutes in 300 ml of 2X SCC, 0.1% SDS solution at room temperature with gentle rotation in the same hybridization tube and two more washes for 15 minutes in 300 ml of 0.2X SSC, 0.1% SDS solution at 65°C. Each blot was then equilibrated in 150 ml of 1X wash buffer (15 ml 10X wash buffer [Roche Mannheim, Germany] and 135 ml distilled H₂O) with gentle agitation at room temperature for 1 minute. The wash buffer was discarded and 100 ml of 1X block solution (10 ml 10X block [Roche Mannheim, Germany], 10 ml 10X maleic acid [Roche Mannheim, Germany], and 80 ml of distilled water) was added to each blot followed by gentle agitation at room temperature for at least 60 minutes. The block solution was discarded and each blot was incubated in 30 ml of anti-digoxigenin-AP solution (diluted 1:20,000 in 1X blocking solution) with gentle agitation for 15 minutes. Each blot was washed twice in 130 ml of 1X wash buffer for 20 minutes with gentle agitation at room temperature. The blots were then equilibrated for 5 minutes each in 40 ml of 1X detection buffer (4 ml of 10X detection (Roche) and 36 ml of distilled water) with gentle agitation at room temperature. Each blot was placed on an acetate sheet and 1 ml of

chemiluminescent substrate (CDP-Star™ diluted 1:100 in 1X detection buffer) was applied onto each blot. The blots were covered with a second acetate sheet and incubated for 5 minutes at room temperature. The blots were exposed to X-ray films in a metal cassette for 10-15 minutes or until desired exposure was obtained.

5 Southern analysis demonstrated that three of the six transformants had the expected gene replacement at the *niaD* locus. The three transformants contained the *pyrG* gene, which was integrated by a double crossover event to disrupt the *niaD* gene. *Pst*I digested genomic DNA from *niaD* transformants produced 869 bp and 1.6 kb bands as well as a third band of >8.5 kb. The untransformed *Fusarium venenatum* strain DLM15 produced a 3.3 kb band and a
10 >8.5 kb band when probed with the *niaD* fragment. *Nsi*I digested genomic DNA produced a 687 bp and a 1.7 kb band as well as a third band of >8.5 kb. The untransformed *Fusarium venenatum* strain DLM15 produced a 680 bp and a > 8.5 band when probed with the identical *niaD* fragment. In addition, the three *niaD* transformants were digested with *Eco*RV, which produced a 4.5 kb and a 1.9 kb band when probed either with a *niaD* fragment or a *pyrG*
15 fragment. *Eco*RV digested DNA of the untransformed *Fusarium venenatum* strain DLM15 produced three bands of 1.2 kb, 1.5 kb, and 4.2 kb when probed with the *niaD* fragment and no bands were observed when probed with the *pyrG* fragment.

The following procedure for spore purification was performed twice in order to obtain a purified fungal strain. Three agar plugs were removed from a minimal medium plate containing
20 the fungal strain and placed in a 125 ml flask containing 25 ml of RA medium. The flask was incubated at 26°C for 40 hours with shaking at 150 rpm. Fungal spores were then harvested from the culture by filtration through Miracloth and centrifuged for 10 minutes at 1877 x *g* with Sorvall RT 6000D centrifuge. The pellet was rinsed twice with 40 ml of distilled water followed by centrifugation at 1877 x *g* for 20 minutes. Appropriate dilutions of the spores were plated on
25 minimal medium plates to obtain isolated colonies. Individual colonies were transferred to minimal medium plates and grew for 5-7 day and subsequent spore purification process was repeated.

Fusarium venenatum niaD mutant #3 was selected according to protoplast and lipase yields obtained for all three transformants: *niaD* mutant #3 produced slightly higher observed
30 lipase yield when compared to *niaD* mutant #2 and *niaD* mutant #3 rendered a higher number of protoplasts when compared to *niaD* mutant #4. Hence, *niaD* mutant #3 was the selected strain used as the host for the analysis of pNham2 and pNham2 variants.

Example 10: Construction of pNham2 promoter variants

Thirteen promoter variants of pNham2 were produced by deletion, substitution, and insertion of nucleotide sequences using the Stratagene QuikChange™ Site-Directed Mutagenesis Kit (Stratagene Cloning System, La Jolla, CA) following the manufacturer's guidelines and using the primers listed below:

Primer 15: 5'-CACGAACGCCTGCTCTATAGCGCCAATGAGG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 31)

Primer 16: 5'-CCTCATTGGCGCTATAGAGCAGGCGTTCGTG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 32)

Primer 17: 5'-CGACCAGACTAAACCATGCGGGGGATTGGGG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 33)

Primer 18: 5'-CCCCAATCCCCCGCATGGTTTAGTCTGGTCG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 34)

Primer 19: 5'-GGCGTAATTTATACCATAGCGGGAACTCCTGTTTTGTCAAG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 35)

Primer 20: 5'-CTTGACAAAACAGGAGTTTCCCGCTATGGTATAAATTACGCC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 36)

Primer 21: 5'-CGAACGCCTGCTCTCGTAATTTATACC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 37)

Primer 22: 5'-GGTATAAATTACGAGAGCAGGCGTTCG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 38)

Primer 23: 5'-CTCGGCGTAATTTCGGCCATAGCGCCAATG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 39)

Primer 24: 5'-CATTGGCGCTATGGCCGAAATTACGCCGAG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 40)

Primer 25: 5'-CGCCTGCTCTCGGAAATTTAAATACCATAGCGCC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 41)

Primer 26: 5'-GGCGCTATGGTATTTAAATTTCCGAGAGCAGGCG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 42)

Primer 27: 5'-CGCCTGCTCTCGGAAATTTAAACGGCCATAGCGCCAATG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 43)

Primer 28: 5'-CATTGGCGCTATGGCCGTAAATTTCCGAGAGCAGGCG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 44)

Primer 29: 5'-GCCTGCTCTCGGAAATTTAAAATTTAAACGGCCATAGCGCCAATG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 45)

Primer 30: 5'-ATTGGCGCTATGGCCGTAAATTTTTAAATTTCCGAGAGCAGGCG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 46)

Primer 31: 5'-CGAACGCCTGCTCTTATATGCCGGGCGCAAATAGCGCCAATGAG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 47)

Primer 32: 5'-CTCATTGGCGCTATTTGCGCCCGGCATATAAGAGCAGGCGTTCG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 48)

Primer 33: 5'-CGAACGCCTGCTCTATTCGTAATTTATACC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 49)

Primer 34: 5'-GGTATAAATTACGAATAGAGCAGGCGTTCG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 50)

Primer 35: 5'-CGTAATTTATACCATAGCGAAGGGTCTTTAGGAACTCCTGTTTTGTC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 51)

Primer 36: 5'-GACAAAACAGGAGTTTCCTAAAGACCCTTCGCTATGGTATAAATTACG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 52)

NO: 52)

Primer 37: 5'-CTCCTGTTTTGTCTGGCGTAATTCGGCCGTTGGGTCATG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 53)

Primer 38: 5'-CATGACCCAACGGCCGAAATTACGCCGACAAAACAGGAG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 54)

5 Primers 15 and 16 were used to create pNham2-Del.1, which contained a deletion spanning the nucleotide sequence of CGGCGTAATTTATACC at positions -158 to -143 upstream of the *Fusarium venenatum* glucoamylase promoter which corresponded to nucleotides 1952 to 1967 of SEQ ID NO: 1 (SEQ ID NO: 68).

10 Primers 17 and 18 were used to create pNham2-Del.2, which contained a deletion spanning the nucleotide sequence of CGGGAGAGTGTCAAAT at positions -272 to -257 upstream of the *Fusarium venenatum* glucoamylase promoter which corresponded to nucleotides 1838 to 1853 of SEQ ID NO: 1 (SEQ ID NO: 2).

15 Primers 19 and 20 were used to create pNham2-Del.3, which contained a deletion spanning the nucleotide sequence of CCAATGAGGGC at positions -134 to -124 upstream of the *Fusarium venenatum* glucoamylase promoter which corresponded to nucleotides 1974 to 1984 of SEQ ID NO: 1 (SEQ ID NO: 6).

Primers 21 and 22 were used to create pNham2-Del.4, which contained a deletion spanning the CGG nucleotides of the sequence of CGGCGTAATTTATACC at positions -158 to -156 upstream of the *Fusarium venenatum* glucoamylase promoter which corresponded to nucleotides 1952 to 1954 of SEQ ID NO: 1 (SEQ ID NO: 7).

20 Primers 23 and 24 were used to create pNham2-Sub.1, which contained a substitution of ATA with a CGG triplet located at positions -147 to -145 upstream of the *Fusarium venenatum* glucoamylase promoter which corresponded to nucleotides 1963 to 1965 of SEQ ID NO: 1. This substitution produced a promoter variant comprising the sequence of CGGCGTAATTTTCGGCC (SEQ ID NO: 3).

25 Primers 25 and 26 were used to create pNham2-Sub.2, which contained the consensus of AAATTAA within the sequence of CGGCGTAATTTATACC. This substitution produced a promoter variant containing the sequence of CGGAAATTTAAATACC at positions -155 to -148 of the *Fusarium venenatum* glucoamylase promoter which corresponded to nucleotides 1955 to 1962 of SEQ ID NO: 1 (SEQ ID NO: 8).

30 Primers 27 and 28 were used to create pNham2-Sub.3, which contained the sequence CGGAAATTTAACGGCC substituted at positions -155 through -145 from the start codon. This substitution corresponds to nucleotides 1955 to 1965 of SEQ ID NO: 1 (SEQ ID NO: 9).

Primers 29 and 30 were used to create pNham2-Ins.1, which contained an insertion of the consensus of AAATTTAA within pNham2-Sub.3 variant located between -148 to -147 which corresponded to nucleotides 1962 to 1963 of SEQ ID NO: 1 (SEQ ID NO:10). This insertion produced a variant comprising the sequence of CGGAAATTTAAAAATTTAACGG.

5 Primers 31 and 32 were used to create pNham2-Sub.4, which contained the substituted sequence of TATATGCCGGGCGCAA located at positions -158 to -143 of the *Fusarium venenatum* glucoamylase promoter which corresponded to nucleotides 1952 to 1967 of SEQ ID NO: 1 (SEQ ID NO: 69).

10 Primers 33 and 34 were used to create pNham2-Sub.5, which contained the sequence ATT substituted for CGG at positions -158 to -156 of the *Fusarium venenatum* glucoamylase promoter which corresponded to nucleotides 1952 to 1954 of SEQ ID NO: 1 (SEQ ID NO: 11). This substitution produced a variant comprising the sequence of ATTCGTAATTTATACC.

15 Primers 35 and 36 were used to create pNham2-Sub.6, which contained the substituted sequence of AAGGGTCTTTA located at positions -134 to -124 of the *Fusarium venenatum* glucoamylase promoter which corresponded to nucleotides 1974 to 1984 of SEQ ID NO: 1 (SEQ ID NO: 12).

20 pNham2-Sub.7 was created using pNham2-Del.2 with primer 23 and 24 to substitute ATA with a CGG triplet located at positions -147 to -145 upstream of the *Fusarium venenatum* glucoamylase promoter which corresponded to nucleotides 1963 to 1965 of SEQ ID NO: 1 (SEQ ID NO: 4).

 Primers 37 and 38 were used to create pNham2-Sub.8 (from pNham2-Sub.1) which contained an additional copy of the sequence CGGCGTAATTCGGCC substituted at positions -108 through -93 of the *Fusarium venenatum* glucoamylase promoter which corresponded to nucleotides 2002 to 2017 of SEQ ID NO: 1 (SEQ ID NO: 5).

25 All pNham2 *Fusarium venenatum* glucoamylase promoter variants generated by site-directed mutagenesis were confirmed by sequencing. Sequence analyses were performed on the *Fusarium venenatum* glucoamylase promoter, the *Thermomyces lanuginosus* lipase gene, and part of the *Fusarium oxysporum* trypsin terminator in the pNham2 variants. The following primers were used to confirm the sequence of the variants:

30 Primer 39. 5'-CGAACAGACGCCTCCGAAGAG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 55)

 Primer 40. 5'-GTGACATCGCCCACTCCAGAG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 56)

 Primer 41. 5'-GATGTTACGACGTGGGCCTGA-3' (SEQ ID NO: 57)

 Primer 42. 5'-ACGCCGCAGCCGAGAC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 58)

Primer 43. 5'-CTGGTTATTGCCGCCG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 59)

Primer 44. 5'-TACCGCATTACCCACACCAAT-3' (SEQ ID NO: 60)

Primer 45. 5'-TGTTCTGGCAGACAGATAACTG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 61)

Primer 46. 5'-GCCCAAGACGACAGAGACGAC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 62)

5 Primer 47. 5'-ATGACCTCAACATCTACCCGG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 63)

Example 11: Analysis of *Fusarium venenatum* glucoamylase promoter variants

10 The *Fusarium venenatum niaD* mutant was transformed with the wild-type pNham2 and its variants described in Example 10 to evaluate the differences in lipase yields obtained when a single copy of the construct is integrated at the *niaD* locus. The procedure for transformation described in Example 7 was followed and 100 µg of DNA for each variant was used per reaction followed by selection on minimal plates with a nitrite source. Transformants were selected on minimal medium plates containing nitrite as the sole source of nitrogen. Only those transformants which contain a functional *niaD* gene were able to grow due to integration of the
15 expression plasmid.

Southern analysis was performed on several transformants of pNham2 or glucoamylase promoter variants thereof to determine the copy number integrated at the *niaD* locus as described in Example 8. Genomic DNA of several transformants for each variant was isolated as described in Example 8 and was digested with *NheI* and *MunI*. Functional *niaD*
20 transformants containing a single copy of the pNham2 integrated at the *niaD* locus produced 4.5 kb and 9.5 kb bands when probed with the trypsin gene fragment described in Example 7. Transformants with multiple copies of the plasmid produced 4.5 kb and 9.5 kb bands as well as a third band of 11.5 kb which corresponds to the size of pNham2. The untransformed *niaD* mutant strain does not contain any bands when probed with the *Fusarium oxysporum* trypsin
25 gene fragment. In addition, the Southern blots were probed with a lipase fragment (Example 7). Single integrants of pNham2 should contain only a 9.5 kb band when probed with the lipase fragment probe. Multiple integrants should contain the 9.5 kb band as well as a second band of 11.5 kb. The untransformed *niaD* strain did not produce any bands when probed with the lipase fragment.

30 Functional *niaD* transformants containing a single copy of the pNham2 or variants were spore purified (as described in Example 9) twice before lipase yields were assessed. A minimum of five transformants for each variant with a single copy of plasmid integrated was selected for comparison of lipase activity. Each transformant was grown in 3 separate shake

flasks and assayed in triplicate for lipase activity. A 25 ml volume of M400 medium in a 125 ml flask was inoculated with 2 or 4 plugs derived from a 5-7 day plate. All flasks were incubated for 7 days at 28°C with shaking at 200 rpm. On day 4 and 7, a 1.5 ml sample of each culture was taken and spun at 13,720 x *g* for 30 minutes with Sorvall MC 12V table centrifuge. Supernatants were transferred into a centrifuge tube and stored at -20°C until the lipase assay was performed.

The lipase activity was performed using the following method. The substrate used in the analysis was p-nitrophenyl butyrate (4 ml of 990 µl of DMSO, 0.1 M MOPS, and 10 µl of p-nitrophenyl butyrate). A volume of 100 µl of substrate was added to 100 µl of enzyme (diluted in 0.1 M MOPS pH 7.5, 4 µM CaCl₂) in a 96 well microtiter plates. Lipase activity was determined by using a standard curve generated using LIPOLASE™ (*Thermomyces lanuginosus* lipase, Novozymes, A/S, Bagsvaerd, Denmark) at 0.1, 0.2 0.4, 0.6, 0.8. 0.9, and 1 LU/ml. Using a microplate reader, lipase activity was measured at 405 nm for 5 minutes at 25°C.

The relative lipase activity obtained for wild-type pNham2 and its promoter variants are shown in Table 1. For each variant the relative mean of lipase activity is shown as well as the p value from a t-test to determine the probability that the lipase yields for a given variant were the same as those for the wild type pNham2. The lower the p value the higher the probability that the populations are different.

Table 1. Lipase activity by *Fusarium venenatum* functional *niaD* transformants

# Transformants		Relative Mean lipase	
<u>Strain</u>	<u>Screened</u>	<u>activity (LU/ml)</u>	<u>Prob >[t]</u>
pNham2	5	1.0	---
pNham2-Del.1	7	0.87	0.127
pNham2-Del.2	9	1.41	0.0005
pNham2-Del.3	7	0.34	0.0002
pNham2-Del.4	7	0.64	0.0059
pNham2-Sub.1	6	3.01	1.2E-05
pNham2-Sub.2	7	0.62	0.0022
pNham2-Sub.3	6	0.75	0.0140
pNham2-Ins.1	7	0.51	0.0004
pNham2-Sub.4	7	1.01	0.9210

pNham2-Sub.5	6	0.40	0.0002
pNham2-Sub.6	5	0.25	7.5E-05
pNham2-Sub.7	8	2.72	9.9E-06
pNham2-Sub.8	5	6.04	1.8E-10

5

Plasmid pNham2-Del.1 contained the deleted putative region IIIa showed no significant change in lipase activity as compared to the wild type plasmid pNham2. pNham2-Del.2 showed a slight increase in lipase activity. Both pNham2-Del.3 and pNham2-Del.4 showed significant decrease in lipase activity as compared to the wild-type.

10 pNham2-Sub.1 showed a significant increase in lipase activity by approximately 3-fold when a CGG triplet is substituted at positions -147 to -145 of the *Fusarium venenatum* glucoamylase promoter.

pNham2-Sub.(2-3) and pNham2-Ins.4 showed significant reduction in lipase activity.

15 Substitution analyses of pNham2 Sub.4-6 variants were performed to determine whether the lipase yields obtained with pNham2-Del.1, 3, and 4 were due to position effects or the deletion of important promoter elements. There was no significant difference in lipase activity when comparing pNham2-Sub.4 to pNham2-Del.1 and wild-type pNham2. Hence, pNham2-Sub.4 substantiates that the result of pNham2-Del.1 variant was not caused by position effect. The findings of pNham2-Sub.5 and 6 substantiate the results of pNham2-Del. 3 and 4. Thus, it
20 suggested that the deleted nucleotides are promoter elements, which may be responsible for high-level expression of the glucoamylase promoter.

pNham2-Sub.7 variant was created to test for an additive effect in expression level. pNham2-Sub.7 variant was constructed by combining the mutations in pNham2-Del.2 and pNham2-Sub.1. There was no additive effect shown by pNham2-Sub.7 in terms of lipase
25 activity. In fact, there was no significant change in expression observed between pNham2-Sub.7 and pNham2-Sub.1.

With pNham2-Sub.8, which contained an additional CGGCGTAATTTCGG at positions -108 to -93 of the glucoamylase promoter, a six fold increase in lipase yield was observed in comparison to pNham2. This finding suggests that the improvement of the glucoamylase
30 promoter activity can be achieved by the introduction of multiple copies of the CGG-TAATTT-CGG upstream of the start codon.

Example 12: Construction of a DIG-labeled histone/lipase hybrid probe for Northern analysis

A histone/lipase hybrid probe was produced using the following set of primers:

Primer 11: 5'-TCTGGAGTGGGCGATGTCA-3' (SEQ ID NO: 64)

Primer 12: 5'-ACCAGTGGACTTGCGGGCGTACCCATTTCACGCAGGTC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 65)

Primer 13: 5'-GACCTGCGTGGAATGGGTACGCCCGCAAGTCCACTGGT-3' (SEQ ID NO: 66)

Primer 14: 5'-GGATGGCGCAGAGGTTGGTG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 67)

Primers 11 and 12 were used to generate a 320 bp histone fragment derived from a cDNA H3 histone fragment (WO 2000/56762). Primers 13 and 14 were used to produce a 320 bp lipase fragment from pNham2. Primers 11 and 14 were used to generate a 620 bp histone/lipase fragment from the PCR products of the histone and lipase reactions.

PCR components used for generating the histone and lipase fragment were as follows:

Histone or lipase fragment: 1 µl of DNA (histone cDNA or pNham2) approx. 50 ng, 5 µl of 10x *Taq* buffer (Roche), 1 µl of 25 mM dNTPs (Boehringer Mannheim, Indianapolis, IN), 1 µl of 50 pmol primer 11 or 12, 1 µl of 50 pmol primer 13 or 14, 1 µl of 5 units/µl *Taq* polymerase (Roche), and 40 µl of distilled water. The cycling parameters and conditions for PCR were as follows: Histone or Lipase fragments: 1 cycle at 95°C for 3 minutes followed by 25 cycles at 95°C for 30 seconds, 60°C for 30 seconds, and 72°C for 1 minute followed by 1 cycle at 72°C for 10 minutes.

The PCR Dig Probe Synthesis Kit was used to generate the histone/lipase hybrid probe with the following components: 5 µl of PCR 10x buffer, 5 µl of Dig Synthesis Mix, 1 µl of primer 11 (50 pmol/µl), 1 µl of primer 14 (50 pmol/µl), 1 µl of Expand™ High Fidelity enzyme mix, 1 µl of the histone PCR product, 1 µl of the lipase PCR product, and 35 µl of distilled water.

The PCR reaction was performed in an Eppendorf MasterCycler with the following cycling parameters and conditions: 1 cycle at 95°C for 3 minutes followed by 30 cycles at 95°C for 1 minute, 60°C for 1 minute, and 72°C for 1 minute followed by 1 cycle at 72°C for 10 minutes. The 640 bp PCR product was resolved on a 0.75% agarose gel using TAE running buffer, excised from the gel, and purified using a Qiaquick Gel Extraction kit following the manufacturer's protocol.

Example 13: Northern analysis of transformants containing a single copy of the pNham2 variant constructs

Northern analysis was performed on a number of pNham2 promoter variants to determine if the differences in lipase yields observed between the transformants were due to differences in the amount of lipase mRNA transcripts present in the cell. Two transformants were chosen for each of six pNham2 variants.

Three agar plugs were removed from a minimal medium plate containing the fungal strain of interest and placed in a 125 ml flask containing 25 ml of M400 medium. The flask was incubated at 28°C for 3 days with shaking at 200 rpm. Fungal mycelia were then removed from the culture and used for RNA extraction. The Bio 101 FastRNA Kit RED (Qbiogene, Inc., Carlsbad, CA) was used to extract RNA from the mycelia following the manufacturer's protocol.

Ten micrograms of total RNA from each transformant were aliquoted into a microcentrifuge tube and the content was dried by speed vacuum with medium heat until the volume was approximately 5 µl. A 15 µl volume of NorthernMAX™ Gel Loading Solution (AMBION, Austin, TX) was added to each sample and vortexed to resuspend. Samples were heated in boiling water for 2 minutes, then quickly spun in a microfuge and chilled on ice.

Samples were loaded onto a 1.5% formaldehyde agarose gel in MOPS buffer (Amersco Solon, OH), and the gel was run at 100 volts until the bromophenol blue dye migrated approximately three-fourths down the gel length. The formaldehyde gel was prepared by mixing 1.5 g agarose, 10 ml 10X MOPS buffer and 85 ml H₂O in a beaker. The agarose was dissolved by heating and then cooling to 50°C with an addition of 5 µl of EtBr and 5.4 ml 37% formaldehyde. The gel was rinsed with DEPC-treated water to remove formaldehyde, then transferred to a HyBond N+ membrane overnight at 4°C using a Schleicher & Schuell Turboblottter (Schleicher & Schuell, Keene, NH) and 10X SSC buffer.

Following transfer, the membrane was dried in a vacuum oven at 80°C for 10 minutes. The membrane was scanned using a STORM 860 Phosphorimager (Molecular Dynamics Piscataway, NJ) with blue fluorescent mode at 1000 PMT voltage to image the RNA on the membrane for subsequent quantitation. Then, the membrane was rinsed twice with 2X SSC buffer for 5 minutes with gentle agitation and crosslinked in a UV Stratalinker (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA).

The prehybridization and hybridization procedures for Northern analysis were performed as previously described for Southern analysis (Example 8). However, the blot was equilibrated

in Buffer A (0.3 M NaCl, 0.1 M Tris-HCl, at pH 7.5) prior to detection. Following detection, the membrane was exposed to ECF substrate (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech., Buckinghamshire, England) overnight. The quantification of both histone and lipase mRNA levels was determined by using the STORM 860 Phosphoimager and Image Quant (version 5.0) program. The results obtained are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Northern analysis of pNham2 variants

<u>Strain</u>	<u>Mean Ratio of lipase to histone mRNA level</u>	<u>Mean relative lipase activity (LU/ml)</u>
pNham2	0.22	1.0
pNham2-Del.1	0.23	0.87
pNham2-Del.2	0.33	1.41
pNham2-Del.3	0.14	0.34
pNham2-Del.4	0.19	0.64
pNham2-Sub.1	0.63	3.01
pNham2-Sub.2	0.18	0.62
pNham2-Sub.5	0.12	0.40
pNham2-sub.8	1.19	6.04

Table 2 shows there was no difference in the lipase to histone mRNA ratio between wild-type and pNham2-Del. 1 which was consistent with the relatively equivalent lipase yields observed. In contrast, there were significant differences between other pNham2 variants when compared to the wild-type pNham2. The increased lipase mRNA transcript level in pNham2-Del.2 and pNham2-Sub.1 correlated well with the increased lipase yields observed when compared to pNham2. This correlation suggested that transcriptional efficiency of the glucoamylase promoter accounted for the increase in lipase yields. The reduction of lipase mRNA levels observed in pNham2-Del.3-Del.4 and pNham2-Sub.2 correlated well with the decreased lipase yields. These findings indicated that transcriptional control accounts for the reduced lipase yield due to the deletion of the CGG and CCAATGAGGGC, and the addition of AAATTAA consensus sequence did not lead to an increase in expression.

The following biological material has been deposited under the terms of the Budapest Treaty with the Agricultural Research Service Patent Culture Collection, Northern Regional Research Center, 1815 University Street, Peoria, Illinois, 61604, and given the following accession numbers:

Deposit	Accession Number	Date of Deposit
<i>E. coli</i> TOP10 (pECO3)	NRRL B-30067	October 27, 1998

The strain has been deposited under conditions that assure that access to the culture will be available during the pendency of this patent application to one determined by the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to be entitled thereto under 37 C.F.R. §1.14 and 35 U.S.C. §122. The deposit represents substantially pure culture of the deposited strain. The deposit is as required by foreign patent laws in countries wherein counterparts of the subject application, or its progeny are filed. However, it should be understood that the availability of a deposit does not constitute a license to practice the subject invention in derogation of patent rights granted by governmental action.

The invention described and claimed herein is not to be limited in scope by the specific embodiments herein disclosed, since these embodiments are intended as illustrations of several aspects of the invention. Any equivalent embodiments are intended to be within the scope of this invention. Indeed, various modifications of the invention in addition to those shown and described herein will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the foregoing description. Such modifications are also intended to fall within the scope of the appended claims. In the case of conflict, the present disclosure including definitions will control.

Various references are cited herein, the disclosures of which are incorporated by reference in their entireties.